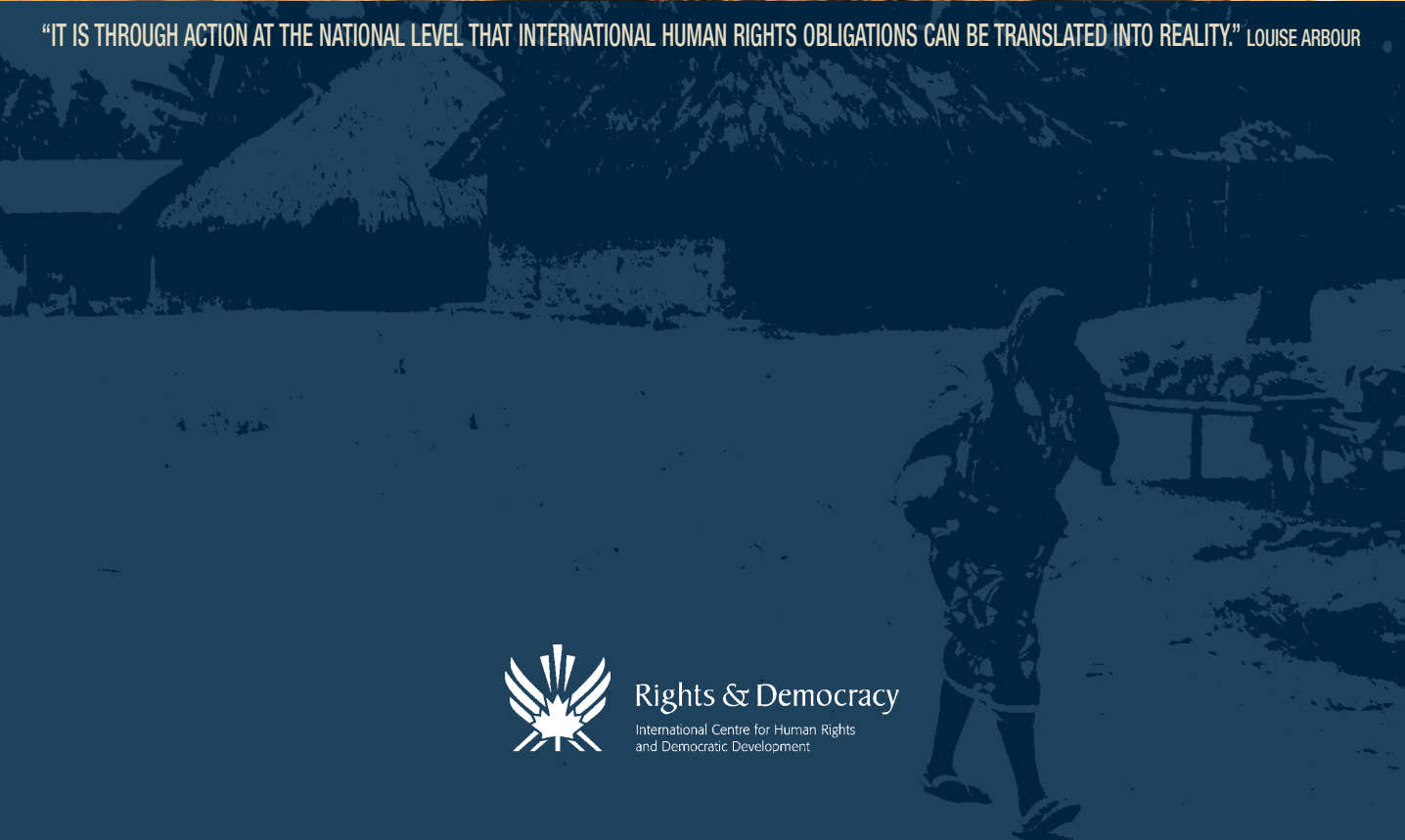




“IT IS THROUGH ACTION AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL THAT INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS OBLIGATIONS CAN BE TRANSLATED INTO REALITY.” LOUISE ARBOUR



Rights & Democracy

International Centre for Human Rights
and Democratic Development

2005 | 2006

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Rights & Democracy

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The quote by Ms. Arbour is from the Plan of Action of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, entitled *Protection and Empowerment*, submitted in May 2005. The cover page photos were taken during Rights & Democracy's 2005 missions to the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The photo in the foreground was taken by Jean-Pierre Muteba of Nouvelle dynamique syndicale, during a visit to an artisanal mine in Katanga province.

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Mandate

Rights & Democracy (International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development) is an independent Canadian institution created by an Act of Parliament in 1988. It has an international mandate to promote, advocate and defend 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 programs to strengthen laws and democratic institutions, principally in developing countries.

Rights & Democracy works at the national, regional and international levels. Its expertise is concentrated on the themes of democratic development, women's rights, the rights of indigenous peoples and the impact of globalization on human rights. It also addresses several other issues, including the threat to civil liberties in the context of the war against terrorism, the impact of religious fundamentalisms on human rights, relevant aspects of Canada's foreign policy, and the strengthening of United Nations and regional human rights mechanisms.

Rights & Democracy receives most 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. Donations are tax deductible (registration number: 0808345-59).

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

Members of the Board of Directors

*First row (from left to right):
Janice Stein, Chairperson
of the Board of Directors (Canada);
Saad Eddin Ibrahim (Egypt);
Baha R. Abu-Laban (Canada);*

*Second row:
Jean-Louis Roy, President (Canada);
Vittit Muntarbhorn (Thailand);
Michael Small (Canada);
Peter S. Li (Canada);
Wayne MacKay (Canada).*

*Absent:
Sofia Macher (Peru)
Nancy Riche (Canada).*



Photo: Chris Kralik

Message from the Chairperson of the Board of Directors

I write to you in my new capacity as Chairperson of the Board of Rights & Democracy. This year was a turning point for rebuilding our institutional capacities and initiating new programming development and expansion. After more than a decade of frozen budgets, our President succeeded in securing an increase to our core budget for 2005-2006. The substantial budget increase, coupled with additional fundraising, allow this institution to work at a much higher level and in a more sustained way toward the full and concrete implementation of human rights.

Rights & Democracy's mandate is to help reduce the gap between States' formal adherence to international human rights agreements and their human rights practices. The current challenge for the international human rights movement is to enhance implementation at the national level. To this end, Rights & Democracy has refocused its Democratic Development programming objectives at the national level. We will continue to work for the full recognition and participation of women and indigenous peoples through our work in the thematic areas of Women's Rights and Indigenous Rights. The impact that international trade and investment and multinational corporate activity have on economic and social rights—particularly for those living in developing countries—will also be specifically addressed through the human rights impact assessment, a project of our Globalization and Human Rights theme.

Rights & Democracy will continue to be part of public debate in Canada, to foster dialogue with civil society and to raise the awareness of Canadians regarding human rights issues through public events such as the John Humphrey Freedom Award tour and our student network. Partnerships in Canada and abroad will also be expanded in order to initiate, encourage and support the promotion, development and strengthening of human rights and democratic institutions.

To conclude, I would like to thank Wayne MacKay, Vice-Chair of the Board, who provided outstanding leadership as the Interim Chairperson. I would also like to welcome four new Board members—Baha R. Abu-Laban, Peter S. Li, Michael Small and Nancy Riche, who joined the Board this year. I am grateful for their wise counsel. The years ahead will be challenging. It is my hope that Rights & Democracy, working together with other human rights organizations, national governments and international institutions will continue to narrow the gap between human rights standards and practice.



Janice Stein



Photo: Chris Kraulik

Message from the President *of Rights & Democracy*



Photo: Chris Krallik

*First row (from left to right):
Anyle Côté, Louis Moubarak,
Marie Léger, Jean-Louis Roy (President),
Leïla Kayali, Amélie Barras;*

*Second row:
Razmik Panossian, Diana Bronson,
Madeleine Desnoyers, Patricia Daigle,
Micheline (Mika) Lévesque,
Marie-France Cloutier, Nicolas Galletti,
France-Isabelle Langlois, Sylvain Aubé,
Geneviève Lessard, Angela Laird,
Geneviève Paul, Carole Samdup,
Lara Arjan, Lauryn Oates;*

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Antonio José Almeida, Patrick St-Louis,
Jean-François Lesage, Gisèle-Eva Côté,
Dominic Tremblay, Geneviève Sauvé,
Louise Lavallée, Cynthia Gervais,
Carmen Melfi, Michael Wodzicki,
Maxime Longangué, Steve Smith,
Lloyd Lipsett, Diane Migneault
and Caroline Brodeur.*

*Absent:
Akouété Akakpo-Vidah, Ariane Brunet,
Louise Chicoine, Anne-Marie Lavoie
(on leave), Lise Lortie, Roya Rahmani,
Neelab Zarif and Sayed Obaidullah
Mahboob (Kabul office), Danielle Magloire
and Claudy Cauvin (Haiti office),
Isabelle Solon-Helal, Marie St-Louis,
Isabelle Vallée and Elana Wright,
(all four on maternity leave).*

Our institution underwent profound changes in 2005-2006. Our financial resources grew by over 60%, our human resources were strengthened by the addition of nine new colleagues, and our technological resources and physical facilities were upgraded. All in all, 2005-2006 was a busy and fruitful year.

This new capacity will contribute significantly to our goal of making Rights & Democracy a Canadian institution that is results-driven, able to set and achieve its priorities, and focused on the need to enforce human rights effectively and keep this need firmly on the agenda of both Canada and the international community.

The initiatives carried out in 2005-2006 to this end include:

- Preparation and implementation of programming for 2005-2010.
- Priority given to national-level activities in a number of strategic or disadvantaged countries.
- Assessment of our international and Canadian partnerships, prioritizing those whose actions can concretely enhance the fulfillment of our mandate. In this vein, we signed an agreement with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to engage in joint actions at the national level or to respond to emergency situations.
- Welcoming top experts to Canada for symposiums on
 - The new UN Human Rights Council;
 - Fundamentalisms and human rights;
 - Emerging human rights issues;
 - The Millennium Development Goals.

Finally, we have also worked hard to raise our profile throughout the country. In 2005-2006, we consolidated and internationalized our delegations in 40 Canadian universities. We also provided support to various Canadian groups that share our goal of tangible, results-based action.

I wish to conclude by sincerely thanking all those on the Board of Directors, the Rights & Democracy team and our partners who believed in our institution's renewal and development.

Jean-Louis Roy

Staff of Rights & Democracy in 2005-2006



Photo: Chris Krallik

Our Programming Objectives

The 2005-2006 fiscal year was a turning point for our programming. We increased our capacity substantially, and we further systematized our work. The increase in our budget enabled us to work on new countries, intensify our current level of engagement and hire new staff. As a result, we were able to both extend our activities to new areas and deepen current engagements. This was also the first year in which we put our long-term vision into practice, as articulated in our programming plan for 2005-2010. In short, it was a year of growth, further focus and strategic action. Our programming continues to be developed through four thematic areas, each with a clear set of goals and linked to the overall programming objectives.

- 1 The Democratic Development team, our largest, contributes to the development of democratic culture, practices and institutions at the national and regional levels. The programming objective of this theme is to support civil society participation in influencing governmental and intergovernmental bodies, and to reinforce norms and mechanisms for the protection of human rights.
- 2 The Women's Rights team facilitates women's leadership and participation in civil society. The Women's Rights programming objective encourages the full contribution of women to peace-building processes, seeks accountability for gender crimes in transitional justice systems, and builds women's capacity to meet the challenges of fundamentalisms, militarism and the prevailing security agenda.
- 3 The programming objectives of the Globalization and Human Rights theme focus on reducing the gap between the actual practices of States and their formal adhesion to international human rights agreements. The team works to promote the implementation of social, economic and cultural rights by advocating a human rights framework for global policies in the areas of economics, development, and governance (with particular emphasis on international trade and investment rules).
- 4 The team of the Indigenous Peoples' Rights theme concentrates on working toward the full recognition and implementation of the rights of indigenous peoples nationally, regionally and internationally. It supports the evolution of jurisprudence and other advances concerning the rights of indigenous peoples, and the participation of indigenous women in this process. It also works toward raising young indigenous peoples' awareness of human rights.

In addition to these four thematic areas, we continued our activities in human rights advocacy, responded to urgent situations or seized important opportunities, and within Canada, promoted issues and activities related to human rights and democratic development around the world.

"It was agreed, — That, in the opinion of the Committee, the Government should recognize that the International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development has not received a budgetary increase or a cost of living increase for more than a decade and consequently, in recognition of the excellent work of the organization as well as taking into account its funding requests, the budget of the Centre should be increased substantially."

Motion adopted unanimously by the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade (December 15, 2004).

Programming Objectives 2005-2010

- > To strengthen democracy and promote human rights in developing countries by enhancing the capacity of civil society to influence political processes, strengthen the rule of law, and build democratic institutions (with particular emphasis on women, indigenous peoples, and marginalized groups).
- > To reinforce the link between rights and democracy at the national level, and to support the implementation of regional and international human rights standards.
- > To advocate for the universality and indivisibility of human rights, and to promote accountability when these rights are denied or undermined.

Contributing to the Development of Democratic Culture, Practices and Institutions



Population:
8,530,000
(African descent: 95%, African and European descent: 5%)

Government:
Presidential regime

Last elections
Legislative:
First round: February 7, 2006
Second round: April 21, 2006
Presidential: February 7, 2006
(5-year term)

Human Development Index
(rank/177 countries):
Low development: 153

Number of core human rights treaties and protocols ratified
(possibility of 13): 4

Haiti: Human Rights Situation in a Nutshell

The human rights situation in Haiti is a continuing concern. With largely dysfunctional government institutions and insufficient security forces, many human rights violations go unpunished, including summary executions, political violence, torture, arbitrary arrests and prolonged incarceration without trial. The 1987 Constitution guarantees rights and freedoms. In practice, however, the institutions charged with protecting these constitutional rights have not fulfilled their obligations. Weak and inefficient, the judicial system is hollowing out from internal corruption and politicization, and suffers from a shortage of staff, resources and training. Human rights activists and non-governmental organizations have worked to protect and promote human rights, despite being subjected to intimidation and attacks in recent years.

Rights & Democracy supports organizations in developing countries that fight to strengthen democratic institutions where they exist and to create them where they do not, as well as to ensure respect of human rights according to international standards. We also contribute to the development and monitoring of mechanisms aimed at strengthening human rights at the regional level, through the Organization of American States and the African Union.

New Rights & Democracy Programme in Haiti

After several months of work and uncertainty, Rights & Democracy opened its office in Port-au-Prince in March 2006 — the implementation of our programme having been delayed due to the political crisis and the lack of security in Haiti. However, recent presidential and parliamentary elections, in which over 60% of the electorate participated, give hope for a transition toward democracy.

Our programme, which we are carrying out in partnership with the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), is aimed at strengthening the participation of civil society in the transition toward democracy. In Haiti, civil society organizations have traditionally had little capacity to influence policies that affect the lives of Haitians, and have also lacked open spaces for participation in which to promote human rights and make public policy proposals. The project supports civil society organizations that wish to reinforce their capacity to influence decision makers, and that require training and support to do so.

The advocacy training programme draws on the original and positive experience of two Haitian civil society coalitions, *Coordination nationale de plaidoyer pour les droits des femmes* (CONAP) and *Forum*

citoyen pour la réforme de la justice. The two coalitions have synthesized their experiences and have drawn important lessons from their work in the promotion of women's rights and the reform of the judicial system in Haiti. These experiences will be used as examples in the training material, and will be widely disseminated through publications.

The advocacy training sessions will be conducted by Rights & Democracy's local staff in a number of regions across the country and will be offered to different sectors of civil society engaged or wanting to engage in advocacy, including women's rights groups, human rights organizations, peasant organizations and groups working for the rights of Haitians with disabilities. The project as a whole, led by the Haiti Office Coordinator and her team, will take place over a 16-month period.

In Canada, Rights & Democracy continues to encourage dialogue between the Canadian government and civil society actors working in Haiti through meetings of our Consultative Group. We also work in close collaboration with many like-minded institutions, such as the NGO coalition *Concertation pour Haïti*.

Strengthening Civil Society in Côte d'Ivoire

Despite the international community's efforts and the coming into power of a new national reconciliation government in December 2005, the crisis continues in Côte d'Ivoire, a country fragmented along political and identity-related lines. Elections, scheduled for October 2006, have been plagued by difficulties — particularly with regard to census and disarmament issues — and delays in election preparations highlight the fragile nature of the peace process.

In an effort to contribute to the entrenchment of democracy, the rule of law and peace in Côte d'Ivoire, Rights & Democracy has made it one of its priority countries with respect to programming. Our goal is to build civil society's organizational capacity and skills, and to increase its ability to influence government policies linked to the protection and defence of human rights.

We provide support to the *Regroupement des acteurs ivoiriens des droits humains* (RAIDH), a coalition of NGOs devoted to advocating and promoting democracy. This coalition, which came into being in January 2005, gives its civil society members a greater voice to promote human rights and expose violations of them. Our support notably enables the coalition to publish *L'Appel*, a monthly news and awareness bulletin on the human rights situation in Côte d'Ivoire. This free publication, with a print run of 6000 copies, is mainly distributed in Abidjan and a number of cities in the interior.

Photo: UNESCO



Population:

18,150,000
(home to 60 ethnic groups, including the Akan, of which the Baoule is the largest sub-group, the Senoufou, the Mande/Dioula, the Krou and the Yacouba)

Government:

Presidential regime

Last elections

Parliamentary: December 10, 2000
Presidential: October 22, 2000
Referendum: July 23, 2000

Human Development Index (HDI)

(rank/177 countries):
Low development: 163

Number of core human rights treaties and protocols ratified (possibility of 13): 7

Côte d'Ivoire: Human Rights Situation in a Nutshell

Despite the efforts of the international community and the establishment of a new transitional government, the human rights situation in Côte d'Ivoire remains a cause for concern. This is due to discrimination against foreigners and the brutality of police forces and armed groups in a country where the institutions responsible for enforcing law and public order are in crisis. The 2000 Constitution enshrined a certain number of rights, fundamental freedoms and responsibilities, as opposed to the previous constitution (1960), which contained a few provisions in relation to rights and freedoms.

Furthermore, in Côte d'Ivoire, those who violate human rights are rarely prosecuted. In 2003, a bill was passed granting amnesty to the perpetrators of crimes against the security of the State since the events of September 2000, and the infractions associated with the events of September 2002. However, the law does not protect the perpetrators of serious human rights violations and economic crimes. Even more importantly, in April 2004, the National Assembly ruled in favour of the creation of a National Human Rights Commission, as stipulated in the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement.

Rights & Democracy has also facilitated the attendance of Ivorian civil society members at international forums on civil society and democratic development. For example, in October 2005, a RAIDH representative participated in a conference organized jointly by Rights & Democracy and the African Democracy Forum (pan-African NGO network) in Conakry, Guinea, that focused on democratic development issues in post-conflict situations. In July 2005, Rights & Democracy and RAIDH organized a seminar on election issues from a civil society perspective. Over 20 Ivorian NGOs participated and were able to define a platform for joint action for the elections scheduled in October 2005.

In March 2006, we organized a training workshop for ten NGO members of RAIDH on topics such as civil society action and advocacy and on integrating a gender perspective into their activities. Training material was prepared for the workshop and tested during it. The people who received training went on to train 50 other NGOs, including 15 in Bouaké, an area controlled by rebel forces known as *Forces Nouvelles*. It is worth mentioning that Rights & Democracy is the only Canadian organization supporting civil society in Côte d'Ivoire.

What are the Core Human Rights Treaties Ratified?

These seven treaties and their protocols are the very foundation of the international human rights law treaty system. The core human rights instruments are:

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, December 16, 1966

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, December 16, 1966

Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, December 16, 1966

Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (to abolish the death penalty), December 15, 1989

International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, December 21, 1965

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, December 18, 1979

Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, December 10, 1999

Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, December 10, 1984

Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, December 10, 2002

Convention on the Rights of the Child, November 20, 1989

Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, May 25, 2000

Optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, May 25, 2000

International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, December 18, 1990

For more information, visit the Website of the Office of the UN Commissioner on Human Rights: www.ohchr.org



Photo: Leslie Kean

Aung San Suu Kyi, the only Nobel Peace Prize laureate under house arrest, leader of the National League for Democracy in Burma.

Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Under House Arrest for Ten Years in Burma

October 24, 2005 marked the tenth year of house arrest for Aung San Suu Kyi, 1991 Nobel Peace Prize laureate and leader of the National League for Democracy in Burma. To commemorate this sombre milestone, Rights & Democracy organized a series of events on Parliament Hill in Ottawa, in collaboration with Canadian Friends of Burma. A press breakfast was held, attended by the Prime Minister in exile, Sein Win, of the government of Burma, and other key actors engaged in the struggle against human rights violations committed by the Burmese military junta. The objective of the event was to urge the Canadian government to act on the motion on Burma that had been adopted in May 2005. This historic motion, which gives an account of the extreme suffering of the population in Burma, invites the Canadian government to take measures against the military regime and increase its support for democratic institutions and pro-democracy movements within Burma.

Since the motion was adopted, the situation in Burma has only worsened. A purge of the junta's ranks, which removed

certain leaders who were perceived as being too soft has left only hard-liners in power. This has had catastrophic consequences for the population. Stripped of their slim margin of manoeuvre for carrying out humanitarian aid, several major international non-governmental organizations have left the country.

Rights & Democracy has been backing a peaceful transition toward democracy in Burma for the past 15 years. To that end, we have supported the Burmese Women's Union, a group that encourages women's participation in pro-democracy movements and works on the Thai, Chinese and Indian borders. We also support the government-in-exile and its strategies for a peaceful transition to democracy, as well as the Canadian Friends of Burma, a group that works in Canada towards that same goal. Furthermore, Rights & Democracy was the first organization in the world to support Burma's government-in-exile. We have been providing that support since 1990.



Population:
50,520,000

(The Burman represent the largest single ethnic group; other ethnic/indigenous groups include the Karen, Shan, Akha, Chin, Chinese, Danu, Indian, Kachin, Karenni, Kayan, Kokang, Lahu, Mon, Naga, Palaung, Pao, Rakhine, Rohingya, Tavoyan, and Wa).

Government:
Burma is ruled by a military junta known as State Peace and Development Council (SPDC). The main democratic opposition party is the National League for Democracy (NLD), which won 82% of votes in the last election.

Last elections:
Parliamentary elections were last held in 1990, but the results were not honoured.

Human Development Index (HDI) (rank/177 countries):
Medium development: 129

Number of core human rights treaties and protocols ratified (possibility of 13): 2

Burma: Human Rights Situation in a Nutshell

Burma's human rights record remains a cause of grave concern. There is general agreement that the military regime in Burma is one of the world's most repressive regimes. The SPDC continues to operate a strict police state, suppressing virtually all basic rights and committing human rights abuses with impunity. Successive resolutions at the United Nations General Assembly and United Nations Commission on Human Rights have drawn attention to arbitrary detentions, extra-judicial killings, rape, torture, a large number of political prisoners, abuse of women's and children's rights, human rights abuses in regions inhabited by ethnic minorities and the complete absence of democracy.



Population:
57,550,000 (Over 200 African ethnic groups, of which the majority are Bantu; the four largest tribes — Mongo, Luba, Kongo (all Bantu), and the Mangbtu-Azande (Hamitic) make up about 45% of the population)

Government:
Transitional government

Last elections:
Multi-party elections in the DRC have not been held since 1959.

On December 18 and 19, 2005, a referendum on a new Constitution was held. It was approved, paving the way for elections to be held in July 2006.

Human Development Index (HDI) (rank/177 countries):
Low development: 167

Number of core human rights treaties and protocols ratified (possibility of 13): 9

Photo: Rights & Democracy



Rights & Democracy has been investigating mining in the Lubumbashi region of the DRC as part of its human rights impact assessment.

DRC: Human Rights Situation in a Nutshell

Despite recent progress on the political stage to achieve stability and peace, the human rights situation remains a cause for grave concern, particularly in the eastern part of the country. Both the government's armed forces and armed opposition groups have violated human rights and humanitarian precepts again and again. The reigning culture of impunity protects the perpetrators of these violations from potential legal proceedings. Observers have witnessed multiple violations of basic rights, particularly sexual violence against women and children, restrictions on freedom of speech, arbitrary arrests and executions, kidnappings, torture, repression, the lack of a fair and impartial justice system, attacks against and massacres of civilians. The ratification of human rights instruments is a priority for the DRC, which has ratified six of the seven major treaties in this area, as well as three optional protocols. Furthermore, the new constitution, which went into effect on February 18, 2006, enshrines a whole series of rights, basic freedoms and duties. This constitution is intended to turn the DRC into a real democracy.

Uncertain Transition for the Democratic Republic of Congo

Close to four million dead in ten years; a conflict that has repercussions in all countries of the Great Lakes region; a transition toward democracy that is mired in complications; and above all, one of the worst crises in terms of human rights violations. All this without even counting the persistent climate of insecurity, the pillaging of natural resources, endemic poverty, and sexual violence against women. In the hopes of helping to end these human rights violations, Rights & Democracy supports Congolese civil society on several fronts.

In March 2006, Rights & Democracy held a five-day training workshop in Kisangani on victim protection and the struggle against impunity. The purpose of the workshop was to enable Congolese organizations to document sexual violence against women, particularly in eastern Congo. The initiative was funded by Foreign Affairs Canada's Human Security Fund, and organized in conjunction with the Lotus Group, a Congolese human rights NGO. The training focused on capacity building to enable NGOs to bring crimes perpetrated specifically against women before the International Criminal Court. It is worth recalling that the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court announced in 2004 that an inquiry would be held into crimes of

sexual violence, and that it was at the request of Congolese NGOs that Rights & Democracy became involved setting up the training programme. Following the practical training session, participants submitted the Kisangani Declaration to the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, urging him to take sexual violence into account in his inquiry and to ensure victim protection throughout the process. The training programme, which was validated during the workshop, will be used in other African countries in conflict situations. This initiative is the result of an intensive work by the Coalition for Women's Human Rights in Armed Conflict Situations, created and coordinated by Rights & Democracy.

Rights & Democracy is also supporting Congolese civil society throughout the process leading up to the elections scheduled for July 30, 2006. In particular, we are working with the *Centre national pour le développement et la participation populaire* (CENADEP), so that it may pursue its activities to promote free and transparent elections and the rule of law. This support aims as well to ensure that information on voting practices is better disseminated throughout the population. Rights & Democracy has been involved in the DRC since 1993.

Rights & Democracy Expands its Programming

Thanks to a substantial increase in its budget, Rights & Democracy will have a greater presence in China, Morocco, Indonesia, Zimbabwe, Bolivia, Egypt and Colombia over the next five years. Work has already begun in some of these countries, and programming is in the planning stage for others.

China

Upon invitation from the Political Science and Law University of China, Rights & Democracy conducted a first exploratory mission to China in March 2006, in order to lay the groundwork for programming, which will be carried out on two levels. The first level, in cooperation with Chinese institutional partners, aims to establish dialogue on democratic development with the new generation of Chinese decision-makers. The second level, in cooperation with civil society partners, aims to encourage citizen participation by supporting Chinese civil society movements. As part of a pilot project, Rights & Democracy will help build the capacity of environmental NGOs — which are very active in China — through regional workshops and case-by-case assistance. In Canada, Rights & Democracy coordinates a coalition of a dozen Canadian NGOs involved in the human rights situation in China.

Indonesia

Human rights, and citizen participation in public decision-making have advanced significantly in Indonesia since the end of the authoritarian regime in 1998. However, a stumbling block in Indonesia's democratic development remains the lack of civilian control over the security sector. Rights & Democracy conducted an exploratory mission in November 2005 to develop programming with respect to security sector reform. Rights & Democracy intends to work in close collaboration with Indonesian civil society in the monitoring and implementation of legislation and institutions linked to security sector reform, in particular, the *Prolegnas* (Indonesia's National Legislation Programme), which ends in 2009. Rights & Democracy also conducts important advocacy activities on Indonesia in Canada, specifically as a founding and active member of the Canadian Advocacy Group on Indonesia. Finally, in 2005, the teams of the Democratic Development and Indigenous Peoples' Rights themes started working together in Asia and specifically in Indonesia, adapting the educational kit "Indigenous Women of the Americas" in order to produce one entitled "Indigenous Women of Asia." The first edition of "Indigenous Women of Asia" will be published in Indonesian and will include specific fact sheets on indigenous women in Indonesia.



Photo: Rights & Democracy



*Gabriel Shumba, director
of the Zimbabwe Exiles Forum.*

Morocco

Morocco is democratizing as it moves away from being a “liberalized autocracy.” Compared to its neighbours and other countries in the Maghreb/Mashrek region, Morocco has made the most progress. Rights & Democracy has contributed to this opening up in the past, by publishing a democratic development study on Morocco in close partnership with Moroccan civil society organizations. The study was launched during a national forum that took place in Rabat in November 2004. In 2005-2006, follow up to this study took place, with the holding of four regional civil society forums in the north, south, centre, and west of the country, bringing together hundreds of civil society actors to discuss the specific challenges in their regions and their communities and identifying the support they need to build democracy effectively. In the coming year, in close collaboration with established partners and some new ones, Rights & Democracy's programming will build on the outcomes of these forums by focusing specifically on those members of Moroccan society who to date have remained outside of the country's democratic development process, in particular youth and marginalized groups.

Zimbabwe

Land seizures, torture, housing demolition and massive evictions: these are some of the offences committed in Zimbabwe by President Robert Mugabe's regime. In September 2005, the Association of Canadian Journalists for Freedom of Expression (CJFE), in collaboration with Rights & Democracy, invited Gabriel Shumba, a young Zimbabwean lawyer forced into exile in South Africa in 2003 following death threats, to bear witness to this mass destruction and violation of human rights. Mr. Shumba's tour of Toronto, Ottawa and Montréal was the starting point of a partnership between Rights & Democracy and the Zimbabwe Exiles Forum (ZEF), led by Mr. Shumba. In November 2005, Rights & Democracy's support made it possible for two victims and their lawyer to testify before the African Commission on Human and People's Rights regarding the violations they had suffered. Subsequently, a resolution adopted by the African Commission criticized the human rights violations perpetrated in Zimbabwe. Encouraged by this decision, the Zimbabwe Exiles Forum now plans to gather 1200 testimonial accounts, particularly from women, some of which will be submitted to the African Commission. In order to support this initiative, Rights & Democracy organized a training workshop in Pretoria in March 2006 on integrating a gender-sensitive approach into the documentation of human rights violations.



Over the past year, Rights & Democracy has pursued its efforts to implement new regional human rights protection mechanisms, strengthen mechanisms for civil society participation, and develop democratic standards within regional organizations such as the Organization of American States (OAS) and the African Union (AU).

Here are some examples of our work and activities at the regional level.

Canadian Expertise to Assist the Work of the African Commission

Since March 2006, four Canadian jurists have joined the team of the African Commission for Human and People's Rights in Banjul to support the work of the Special Rapporteurs and speed up the processing of complaints filed with the Commission. Funded by Canada Corps, this two-year project coordinated by Rights & Democracy also aims to increase awareness in Canada of the African regional system of human rights protection and promotion of the the African Union. The young Canadian jurists also get the opportunity to exploit their knowledge and acquire international experience. This support makes it possible for the African Commission, which suffers a glaring lack of funding, to improve its capacity to fulfill its human rights mandate. It also enables African States to honour their obligations to protect rights.

Human Rights Centre Stage at the OAS Summit of the Americas

As part of a joint Rights & Democracy/Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) project, some twenty human rights organizations from the Americas were able to participate in the People's Summit in Mar del Plata, Argentina, from November 1 to 5, and in the work of the official Summit of Heads of State of the Americas, on November 4 and 5, 2005. The active participation of NGOs at both summits was the outcome of several months of work that resulted in a united stand on economic integration of the Americas and its impact on human rights. The project's main goal was to help human rights organizations play an active role in the debates on economic integration. It also aimed to facilitate communication and cooperation among the region's human rights organizations and organizations working specifically on the issue of regional economic integration. Among the side events of the People's Summit, Rights & Democracy organized a workshop entitled "Human Rights, Fighting Poverty and Strengthening Democracy" in collaboration with several Latin American partners. The International Coalition of Human Rights Organizations of the Americas, of which Rights & Democracy is a member, issued a declaration at the Summit of the Americas. The declaration is posted on our Web site.

Photo: Rights & Democracy

Regional Mechanisms at a Glance

Regional mechanisms such as the Organization of American States and the African Union are important because they are able to actualize international standards that have not yet been ratified and to make up for their shortcomings. In addition, they can deal with human rights problems that affect the countries of a given region. In some cases, they compensate for the procedural and institutional weaknesses and loopholes of certain national jurisdictions and of the international system.

For example, in several countries, judicial systems are not only weak and unable to guarantee the enforcement of ratified international instruments, but they are also unable to provide effective recourse to the victims of violations. The human rights protection system of the OAS gives all citizens of the Americas the right to appeal to the Inter-American Human Rights Court, as long as their country has recognized the Court's jurisdiction. In this way, victims of violations who have not obtained justice within their country's legal system may appeal to the Inter-American Court.

Regional systems also contribute to the development and application of new standards that, in some cases, are more progressive and go much further than those established by international instruments with regard to human rights. For example, the ratification of regional human rights conventions not only broadens the range of rights that are recognized and protected at the national level, but it can also open the way for necessary reforms of a country's institutional and legal system.

Rights & Democracy has been working on the issue of economic integration of the Americas since the Santiago Summit in 1998. Over the years, we have acquired expertise enabling us to act, in relation both to governments and civil society organizations, as a key player in the debate surrounding governments' international human rights obligations and international trade regulations arising from free-trade agreements in the region. Rights & Democracy is one of the only Canadian human rights organizations to work on the OAS.

Supporting Regional Cooperation in Asia

Rights & Democracy supports advocacy and programming on regional cooperation in Asia through the provision of project grants to a network of 29 institutional members in 16 countries. The Asia Pacific Research Network (APRN) coordinates research on issues identified by its members and engages in capacity-building as part of the research process. The APRN carries out its mandate through the organization of an annual policy conference in the region, this year held in the Philippines on the issue of agrarian reform. In addition to this conference, the APRN also convened a number of other regional workshops and seminars, like those held alongside both the 6th WTO Ministerial Meeting in Hong Kong (December) and the Asia-Africa Summit in Indonesia (April). It also conducted a series of training sessions for social activists in India and Pakistan (September). The APRN publishes a newsletter and journal on issues related to regional cooperation, including an on-line publication.

In the coming year, we will continue to consolidate our partnerships in the Asia-Pacific region. Our annual international conference, scheduled in June 2006, will focus on strengthening democracy in Asia through the creation of regional mechanisms and forging new partnerships to make rights a reality.



Advocating Women's Rights *as Human Rights: Always a Priority*

Although it is self-evident to many that women's rights must be defended as human rights, much remains to be done to improve women's living conditions throughout the world. Even ground that has been won can be lost again. It was only in 1993, at the World Conference on Human Rights, that the member States of the UN officially recognized women's rights as human rights, and recognized violence against women as a violation of human rights. Since then, the World Conference on Women in 1995 and Beijing + 10 in 2005 have taken place. Despite this, the gap between internationally adopted standards and practices remains alarming. The rise of religious fundamentalisms (as in Afghanistan or the United States), violence against women during armed conflict (such as sexual violence against women in the Democratic Republic of Congo) and the impunity that too often cloaks crimes against women are some of the issues that concern the team working on our Women's Rights theme. The team works with several networks throughout the world to fulfill its mandate, including Women Living Under Muslim Laws, the *Coalition congolaise pour la justice transitionnelle*, and the coalition led by the Canadian Council of Muslim Women that opposes the privatization of family law by resorting to faith-based arbitration.

Improving the Status of Women in Afghanistan

In Afghanistan, violence and intimidation are as much a part of the daily lives of women as they are for human rights movements. Extremist groups continue to attack Afghan women and men who are committed to the struggle for women's rights, and the torching of dozens of schools for girls in the last few months testifies to the insecurity and opposition provoked by human rights in Afghanistan. We have continued our efforts to improve the status of women and to extend our activities to some of the most remote provinces of Afghanistan. Thanks to funding from the Canadian International Development Agency — through an agreement that is coming to term this year and is currently being renegotiated — the Women's Rights in Afghanistan Fund has supported over 60 projects since its creation by Rights & Democracy in 2002, amounting to an average of 20 projects per year.

Among the projects that were started this year, on August 16, 2005, we enthusiastically inaugurated the Women's Resource Centre in Kandahar, the first and only place of meeting and exchange for women in southern Afghanistan. A number of figures, notably Canada's ambassador to Afghanistan, the Governor of Kandahar, as well as several members of the local and international media, including the BBC, were there to highlight the opening of this centre in what is considered to be Afghanistan's most conservative region and the cradle of the Taliban. The Resource Centre, which includes a library, conference room and Internet space, gives women the opportunity to meet and to find out more about their rights and their issues of concern. Also worth mentioning is the creation of two free legal-aid clinics in northern Afghanistan, in the Jahzjan and Shirbirghan regions. Geared particularly toward women, these clinics provide professional legal advice and services, as well as free information sessions regarding rights.



Photo: Duaine Goodin

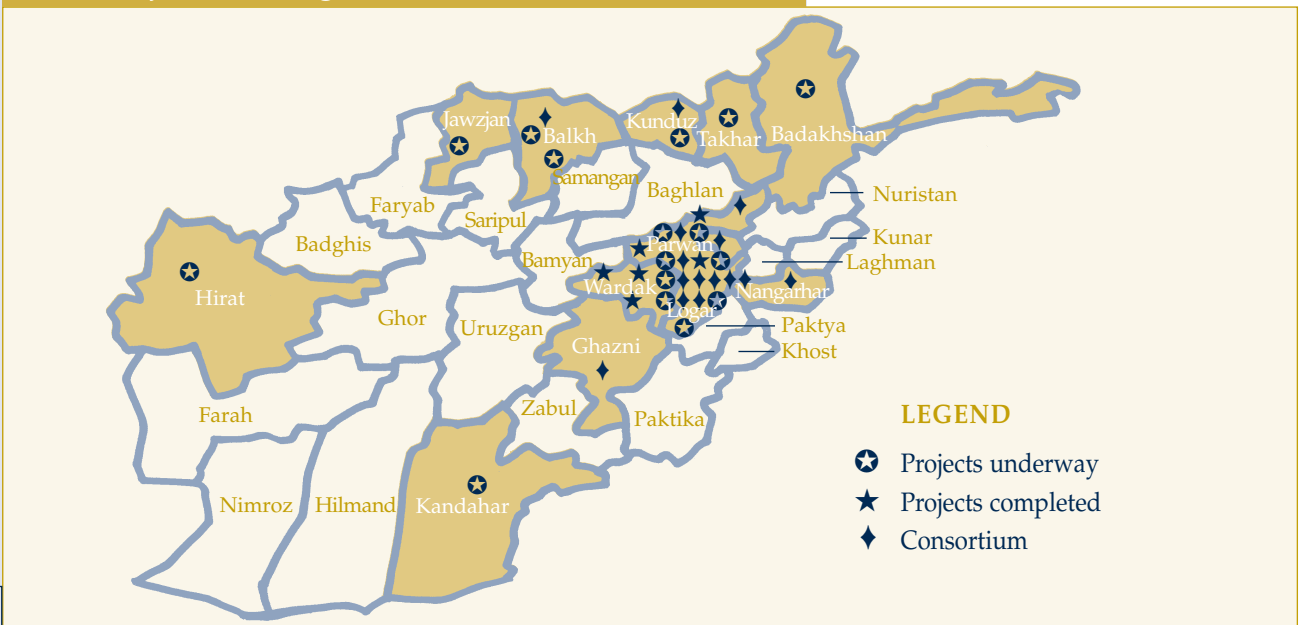


Photo: Rights & Democracy

On March 9, 2006, Rights & Democracy, in partnership with Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan and Afghanistan Peace Ambassadors, organized a public event in Ottawa for International Women's Day, which was attended by the Honourable Flora MacDonald and Khorshid Samad, a former Afghan journalist, to highlight the courage of Afghan women in their struggle for human rights, peace and equality. On March 10, a press conference was organized on Parliament Hill with the intent of broadening the debate on security and Canada's military presence in Afghanistan, particularly with regard to the lack of security that prevents women from exercising their rights. In the photo, Jean-Louis Roy, President of Rights & Democracy, accompanied by Khorshid Samad and the Honourable Flora MacDonald.

Over the last three years, the team at our Kabul office has worked with over 30 partners, including Afghans for Civil Society (ACS) in Kandahar, the Association for the Defence of Women's Rights of Balkh (ADWRB), the Educational Training Centre for Poor Women and Children (ECW), and the Women's Health Services and Rights Organization (WHSRO). By using a human-rights approach, our aim in supporting our partners' projects is to provide women with the means and tools they need to become agents of change. For more information on our projects or activities in Afghanistan, visit the Fund's Web site at www.wraf.ca.

Our Projects in Afghanistan



Ideaccess: With Access to Information, the Sky's the Limit

Access to knowledge is essential for everyone to live in security and to build free and fair societies. It is the one necessary condition for developing critical thinking and changing the world we live in. With that premise, Rights & Democracy and Etana Press, a publishing house based in Syria, initiated the Ideaccess project. Using a gender-sensitive approach, Ideaccess is an information and exchange network combining translation, printing, dissemination and accessibility, and aimed at citizens, activists or women's rights advocates in the Middle East and Central Asia. The network provides documents on human rights and women's rights, translated by professionals into Dari, Farsi, Pashto, Arabic, Tadjik, Uzbek, Urdu or Russian. It also promotes and distributes these resources by setting up community libraries. During its first



year of activity, the handbook entitled *Investigating Women's Rights Violations in Armed Conflicts*, published by Rights & Democracy, was translated into Russian and Farsi, and three other documents, *Only Silence will Protect You*, *Women & Peacebuilding* and the handbook *Documenting Women's Rights Violations by State Agents*, were translated into Arabic. In the coming year, 30 publications will be translated into one of the eight languages of the project.

For more details or access to these resources, see www.ideaccess.org.

Lauryn Oates, Women's Rights Programme Officer at Rights & Democracy, whose Ideaccess project received a special mention for excellence from the Jury at the Stockholm Challenge award ceremony on May 11, 2006. The project, which was a finalist in the Education category, was chosen from among over 1200 projects submitted in one of six categories. Every year, the Stockholm Challenge rewards the most innovative projects launched throughout the world using new information and communication technology.



Photo: Rights & Democracy

Meeting at the Resource Centre for women in Kandahar.

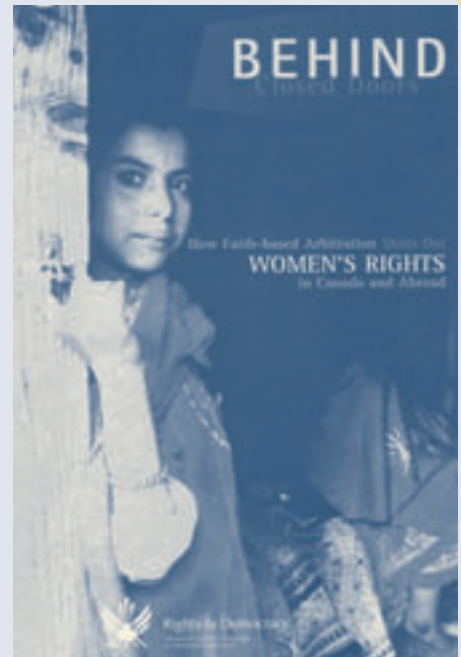


Published in March 2006, the handbook *Documenting Women's Rights Violations by Non-state Actors*, written by Jan Bauer and Anissa Hélie, is a joint publication of Rights & Democracy and *Women Living Under Muslim Laws*. This manual, specifically addressed to groups and individuals not well versed in legal matters, provides tools to human rights activists and advocates who investigate violence perpetrated against women by non-state actors. Its goal is to offer guidance with regard to the legal definitions and human rights protection mechanisms that may help them compel States to fulfil their obligation to protect. It presents concrete examples of particular forms of violence committed against women by non-state actors and models of strategies that have been used effectively, particularly in Muslim communities.

This handbook is the third in a series of publications created by Rights & Democracy to help human rights activists and advocates document women's rights violations. For more details, visit our Web site.

The Campaign Against Faith-Based Arbitration in Family Matters

On February 15, 2006, Ontario put an end to the ambiguity surrounding the possibility of using the *Arbitration Act* to settle family matters. By adopting legislation that stipulates that all family law arbitration must be based solely on Canadian law, the government has resolved a situation that sparked heated criticism both in Canada and abroad. In support of the coalition coordinated by the Canadian Council of Muslim Women and supported by hundreds of organizations and individuals concerned with such issues, Rights & Democracy participated in several events aimed at raising the awareness of parliamentarians, NGOs, the media and the general public regarding the devastating consequences of faith-based arbitration in family matters for women's rights in Canada and throughout the world. For example, we published an information leaflet entitled *Behind Closed Doors: How Faith-Based Arbitration Shuts Out Women's Rights in Canada and Abroad*, which explains how accepting faith-based arbitration in family matters goes against recognizing that women's rights are universal, indivisible and inalienable, as stipulated in the Declaration and Plan of Action of the World Human Rights Conference of 1993.



Moving Toward Full Recognition of Indigenous Peoples' Rights

In all regions of the world, indigenous peoples suffer more from poverty (with indigenous women experiencing the worst of it), have a shorter life expectancy and are subject to multiple forms of discrimination. In addition, they are often caught in the middle of armed conflict on their own lands, with all the consequences that implies, including appropriation of their resources and forced displacement. Rights & Democracy, through its theme of Indigenous Peoples' Rights, continues to work for the full recognition of their rights in regional and international legal standards. Moreover, we work to ensure that these standards are reflected in national laws, and we support their enforcement, particularly in countries undergoing democratization or peace-building processes. We also support indigenous women's participation in decision-making processes that affect them, and build on their capacity to act at the national, regional and international levels.

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Soon to be Adopted

After more than ten years of arduous negotiations, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is finally on the verge of being adopted. The Declaration would be a first step toward recognizing the collective rights of indigenous peoples, thus filling a gap in international human rights instruments. During the last meetings of the Working Group on the Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, held in Geneva from December 5 to 16, 2005 and January 30 to February 3, 2006, consensus began to emerge around several articles of the Declaration that had frustrated prior discussions. Progress included provisional agreements on 21 paragraphs of the Preamble and 25 of the 45 articles. The Chair of the working group, Luis Enrique Chávez, drafted a compromise text for each controversial article, taking into account the different points of view as much as possible. Before these meetings, only two articles of the Draft Declaration had met with consensus after more than ten years of negotiations. The text reflects the agreement of a majority of indigenous representatives involved in this process, as well as that of many States.

Rights & Democracy has been following this issue since the beginning and works with both the Canadian government and the UN in an effort to improve the climate of cooperation between indigenous leaders and government representatives.

To help advance the negotiations, Rights & Democracy organized a technical seminar on the Declaration, in collaboration with the Inuit Circumpolar Conference and the Grand Council of the Crees, in Montréal from August 10 to 13, 2005. The workshop enabled the Indigenous Caucus to propose alternative solutions to the members of the Working Group in order to move the negotiations forward at upcoming meetings. Over the years, Rights & Democracy has forged solid ties of cooperation with several partners, including the Assembly of First Nations, the Native Women's Association of Canada, Amnesty International, Kairos and the Quakers.

In the coming year, we will continue to follow closely the work leading up to the adoption of the Declaration, which, if all goes well, should take place in 2006.



Photo: Donna Clark



Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Continental Network of Indigenous Women, held in Kahnawake from August 23 to 25, 2005.

Negotiations Going Full Speed Ahead at the Organization of American States

Rights & Democracy has continued to follow the negotiations surrounding the adoption of an American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples at the Organization of American States. In October 2005, we participated in the sixth round of talks in Guatemala, which was the first round of talks to be held outside of OAS headquarters in Washington. The goal was to facilitate the participation of indigenous representatives, particularly from Guatemala, at the meeting. As in recent years, we support financially the technical meetings of the Indigenous Caucus, which bring together indigenous representatives from all countries of the Americas to define common positions. If the talks continue smoothly, the Declaration should be adopted by the OAS General Assembly in 2007.

The Continental Network of Indigenous Women Continues to Weave Links

Rights & Democracy, *Enlace* — the Continental Network of Indigenous Women, and Québec Native Women continue to strengthen their ties to increase cooperation among indigenous women in Canada and Latin America. Thanks to funding from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), a four-week internship is offered to four indigenous women, two from Canada and two from Latin America, to give them experience in international forums. The interns (one a young woman and the other an experienced activist), from organizations in Canada and Latin America, will spend a month

with their co-interns' organization to learn more about their respective situations and cultures. This training programme, which is designed for young indigenous women and experienced activists, focuses on the situations of indigenous peoples in both the North and South.

Cooperation among Canadian and Latin American indigenous women is deepening, and *Enlace* is working to consolidate this fact. Following a strategic planning exercise in 2004-2005, the network acquired greater operational autonomy. Over the past year, it has redesigned its Web site, put together a virtual library and increased its representation activities with various networks to strengthen ties with several partners. Since 1993, *Enlace* has been enabling the indigenous women of the Americas to take a common stand and make their voices heard on the international stage.

We have also continued our work with the Asian Indigenous Women's Network (AIWN), which brings together indigenous women from more than ten countries. We organized a workshop on the priorities and aspirations of indigenous women at the beginning of this second International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples (2005-2015), which was adopted by the United Nations during the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in May 2005. Indigenous women from the Americas, Asia and Africa set forth their respective priorities, thus helping to strengthen their relationships and find venues for collaboration.

The Continental Network of Indigenous Women: Stronger Together



Photo: Associated Press

Rights & Democracy invited Victoria Neuta, a member of the Women's Commission of the Organización Nacional Indígena de Colombia (ONIC) and a member of the Continental Network of Indigenous Women, Enlace, for meetings in Toronto, Ottawa and Montréal in August 2005. The goal of the visit was to raise awareness among the media, government representatives, NGOs and the public about the human rights situation in Colombia, particularly with regard to indigenous peoples, and to present their peace-building strategies. The conflict, which has been going on for more than 45 years, has had a disastrous impact on the indigenous peoples of Colombia. While the Colombian constitution is one of the most progressive in terms of indigenous rights, the implementation of its provisions is far from being a reality. For example, according to the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, several indigenous communities are in danger of extinction as peoples (E/CN.4/2005/88/Add.2, 2004). In the coming year, Rights & Democracy will work alongside ONIC to document the situation of indigenous peoples in danger of extinction in Colombia, in an effort to find solutions to reverse this phenomenon and ensure the ethnic and cultural survival of these groups.

Closing the Gap

Between Standards and State Practices

The globalization of trade and the resulting process of economic integration have a major impact on populations. Be it large-scale direct investment projects abroad or the negotiation of trade agreements, human rights must be the guiding principle for stakeholders involved in the process, namely, the State, the private sector and civil society. Rights & Democracy, through its Globalization and Human Rights theme, strives to promote the primacy of human rights in trade agreements in order to ensure a decent standard of living for all. Rights & Democracy also works to provide communities and civil society organizations with the means to ensure that investment projects do not infringe upon international human rights laws and standards, and that the businesses concerned are held accountable.

Five Case Studies for Human Rights Impact Assessments of Investment Projects

When multinational companies or foreign investors decide to set up shop in a region, or when goods and services are privatized, how do we measure the impact of such large-scale projects on the affected populations? Based on the model of environmental impact assessments, Rights & Democracy is entering the second year of a project to provide policy decision-makers, investors and communities with a methodological tool to assess the impact of such projects on human rights. In order to test this methodology and to develop the relevant educational and awareness-raising materials during the project's third year, five case studies have been selected in Argentina, Peru, the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Philippines and Tibet. Developed in collaboration with an international steering committee, the methodology is currently being tested in the context of these five case studies.

Privatization of water distribution networks in Buenos Aires: This controversial investment by Suez/Vivendi (France) threatens the right of Argentine citizens to drinking water and is headed for precedent-setting arbitration at the International Centre for the Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID, World Bank). The project's partners, the *Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales* (CELS) the *Asociación Civil por la Igualdad y la Justicia* (ACIJ) have won the right to submit an *amicus curiae* brief. This makes it possible for the views of human rights advocates to be heard for the first time, setting a precedent in this respect.

Health effects of mining in the Mantaro River Plains, Peru: Carried out in collaboration with the *Centro de Promoción y Estudios de la Mujer* (CEPEMA-LULAY), this case study will help a grassroots community women's organization establish a methodology for addressing the cumulative effects of the Doe Run Resource Corporation's mining operations in the area, and how the operations affect women's rights to equality, as well as the right to food, the right to water and the right to health.

Photo: Rights & Democracy

Effects of multinational mining operations in Katanga province, Democratic Republic of Congo:

The DRC's wealth of natural resources has often been the source of conflict, and the exploitation of these resources has never benefited the local community. In collaboration with the Council of NGOs of Katanga-Lubumbashi (CRONGD) and the Research Group on Mining in Africa (GRAMA), this case study will make it possible to assess the human rights impact of the Somika mineral processing plant in the Lubumbashi region.

Effects of multinational mining operations in Mindanao, Philippines:

This study will assess the human rights impact of mining operations in a conflict zone, in this case, the operations of Canadian mining company TVI-Pacific around Mindanao in the southern Philippines. Already the subject of two parliamentary hearings in Canada, TVI-Pacific's operations in Mindanao will be assessed particularly for their impact on indigenous rights. Project partners are the Siocon Subanon Association *Apu' Manglang Pusaka*, the Save Siocon Paradise Movement (SSPM), Pigsalabukan Bansa Subanon, the Legal Rights and Natural Resources Center, Inc.—*Kasama sa Kalikasan* (LRC-KSK/Friends of the Earth-Philippines), the DIOPIM Committee on Mining Issues (DCMI), Philippine Indigenous Peoples Links, MiningWatch Canada (MWC), and *Tebtebba*.

Gormo-Lhasa Railroad project, Tibet:

The Gormo-Lhasa Railroad has the potential to be used by the Chinese military in Tibet and Central Asia, with a detrimental impact on certain human rights. In collaboration with independent IT expert Greg Walton, this study will make it possible to

assess the impact of information and communication technologies provided by a Canadian company, Nortel Networks, working with China's Public Security Bureau and the Ministry of Railways.

This year, Rights & Democracy staff conducted field missions, often under very difficult conditions, in an attempt to systematically document, with partners in the above-mentioned countries, the effect on human rights of the investment projects in question. At the same time, the need for human rights impact assessment methodologies was acknowledged both in Canada by a Parliamentary Committee examining the actions of Canadian mining companies overseas, and by various multilateral organizations. Both the World Bank and the UN Secretary General's Special Representative have tackled the issue and much more work will be done over the next year. Rights & Democracy wishes to contribute to the debate by ensuring that the voices of communities directly affected by foreign direct investment are heard. In addition, Rights & Democracy, in collaboration with the Canadian Network on Corporate Accountability, advocates binding legislation to make respect of human rights mandatory for both public and private actors and believes that a comprehensive human rights impact assessment is the first step in that direction.

Photo: Rights & Democracy



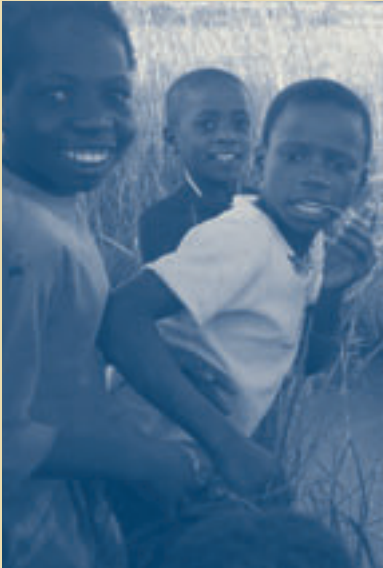


Photo: Rights & Democracy

A Human Rights Framework for International Trade

Working with governments and civil society in Canada and internationally, Rights & Democracy continues to advocate for a human rights framework in international trade policy and practice. Our focus is on two primary sectors: agriculture policy and the export of information and communications technology (ICT).

In May 2005, as part of the Canadian Food Security Policy Group and in conjunction with Canadian supply management producer associations, Rights & Democracy welcomed the visit to Canada of farmers and civil society representatives from Brazil, India and West Africa. Delegates toured Canadian farms, met with members of parliament and government and participated in a public seminar. In October 2005, in collaboration with Human Rights in China (HRIC), we also organized a roundtable discussion on ICTs, using China as a case study. Participants, including technical experts, government officials and civil society representatives, examined how the use of ICTs for security and surveillance purposes can undermine the protection of human rights when democratic checks and balances are not in effect or not applied.

Both the May event on agriculture and the October event on ICTs informed Rights & Democracy's preparations for the 6th WTO Ministerial Meeting in Hong Kong in December 2005. During the Ministerial Meeting, we supported the Hong Kong People's Alliance and convened the WTO Human Rights Caucus, which brought together more than 100 organizations from all continents, and issued a joint statement on the eve of the meeting. Caucus members also worked together to organize several panel and workshop events both within the official venue and as part of side events. Reports of the May and October events, as well as the joint statement of the WTO Human Rights Caucus, are available on our Web site.

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Working with farmer, peasant and labour support organizations, Rights & Democracy promotes the use of a human rights framework for development and the alleviation of poverty. Our focus areas include the right to an adequate standard of living and the right to food, as well as the right to form and join a trade union.

Rights & Democracy continues to support the Malawi National Right to Food Taskforce. In the fall of 2005, we organized and accompanied a cross-Canada tour by taskforce representative Mildred Sharra. The Canadian tour included conference presentations, meetings with representatives of the Government of Canada and with Canadian non-governmental organizations.

Rights & Democracy continues to support labour rights advocacy and programming, primarily in China. The case intervention project developed by the China Labour Bulletin provides legal and practical assistance to Chinese workers seeking the resolution of labour disputes and conflicts. We also support civil society initiatives on behalf of women working in the informal sector.

At the international level, Rights & Democracy supports the advocacy campaign to adopt an "optional protocol" to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). In 2003, the United Nations Commission on Human Rights (now Human Rights Council) created an open-ended working group to develop approaches for the optional protocol. An international coalition of non-governmental organizations, supported by Rights & Democracy, is working to encourage substantial progress in achieving that goal.

Our Major Meetings

Emerging Human Rights Issues

In conjunction with the Department of Foreign Affairs, Rights & Democracy organized a meeting on the theme of *Emerging Human Rights Issues* February 16 and 17, 2006, in Montréal. The 30 guests from Canada and abroad included: Aminata Traoré, Mali's former Minister of Culture and organizer of the African Social Forum; Thomas Trier Hansen, of the Danish Institute for Human Rights; and Bacre W. Ndiaye, from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in New York. The purpose of this round table was to foster exchanges and discussion on new human rights issues confronting our societies. Four subjects that have major repercussions for human rights were addressed: the role of non-state actors, culture and religion, fragile States, and sustainable development and the environment. The report of this meeting is posted on our Web site.

Responding to Rising Fundamentalisms

Fundamentalisms manifest themselves in different forms, depending on the context and the country involved. In some countries, women are obliged to mobilize against the opposition of conservative Christian movements to women's free choice in terms of sexuality and procreation. In other societies where another type of fundamentalism prevails, women are more concerned about the effects of laws that govern personal status. In the interests of contributing to the debate on the rise of fundamentalisms and their impact on human rights, Rights & Democracy invited members of several organizations devoted to advocating and protecting human rights to an international meeting from May 12 to 14, 2005, in Montréal.

Organized by the Women's Rights team, the meeting provided an opportunity to examine the phenomenon of rising fundamentalisms, define how to defend and promote women's rights and protect them from fundamentalist efforts to turn back the clock and to conceive ways to work together on these issues. According to a number of the people attending the meeting, the obsession with security can become an obstacle to human rights discourse, insofar as any objection to, criticism or questioning of increased national security measures is often poorly received. With regard to recurring themes and common concerns, we saw that one of the current priorities of women living in countries where fundamentalist movements are particularly powerful is to find a way to establish the direct accountability of non-state actors within the framework of human rights law. The report of this meeting is posted on our Web site.



Photo: Christine Lacroix

Soheib Bencheikh, Director of the Higher Institute of Islamic Studies and former Mufti of Marseilles attended the meeting organized by Rights & Democracy entitled Fundamentalisms and Human Rights. During his visit, he gave several interviews to the Canadian media, particularly on the potential effects of faith-based arbitration on family law in Ontario.



Stephen Lewis, United Nations Special Envoy for HIV/AIDS in Africa.

The Millennium Development Goals: Our Human Rights Obligations

“The MDGs have to have a human rights framework that is asserted with rigour and uncompromising commitment.” This unequivocal statement, made by Stephen Lewis, United Nations Special Envoy for HIV/AIDS in Africa, set the tone for Rights & Democracy’s annual international conference, held on June 8 and 9, 2005, in Ottawa. The conference, which attracted more than 200 people, sought to mobilize Canadian organizations for the United Nations Millennium + 5 Summit in September 2005, in order to reach the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) by the UN-set deadline of 2015. Speakers included: Bertrand Ramcharan, former UN Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights, Sharon Hom, Executive Director of Human Rights in China, and Walter Reid, Director of the UN Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. The leaders or representatives of the five federal political parties (Conservative, Liberal, Bloc Québécois, New Democratic Party and Green Party) also took part in the debate during a session entitled “Mobilizing Political Parties.” During the conference, a number of speakers drew attention to the need for Canada to commit 0.7% of its gross domestic product (GDP) to international aid by 2015. The report of this meeting is posted on our Web site.

Our Special Initiatives

West Papuan Receives 2005 John Humphrey Freedom Award

Since its takeover by Indonesia more than 40 years ago, West Papua has endured an ongoing military campaign to quell independence-seeking guerrillas and repress civil society organizations opposed to Jakarta's policies in the region. Summary executions, torture, sexual violence and massive seizure of indigenous lands are some examples of the abuse committed by Indonesian armed forces in West Papua, generally with complete impunity.

On December 8, 2005, over 200 people gathered at the Canadian Museum of Civilization in Ottawa to pay tribute to Yan Christian Warinussy, winner of the 2005 John Humphrey Freedom Award, and support his exemplary struggle to expose human rights violations in West Papua, despite ongoing intimidation and threats to his personal safety. The ceremony marked the end of a Canadian tour, from

November 28 to December 9, 2005, which took the laureate to Vancouver, Victoria, Toronto, Montréal and Ottawa. Organized in conjunction with several partners, including the Munk Centre for International Relations, the West Papua Action Network (WestPan), Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives (Kairos), Pacific People Partnerships, the Winnipeg Global College and Alternatives, the tour made it possible to raise public awareness about human rights violations perpetrated in West Papua. A photo exhibit on West Papua, set up especially for the occasion, was presented in each city. The tour was also an opportunity to launch a postcard campaign asking the Canadian government to act as a mediator with the Indonesian government to restore dialogue between Indonesian authorities and Papuan leaders.

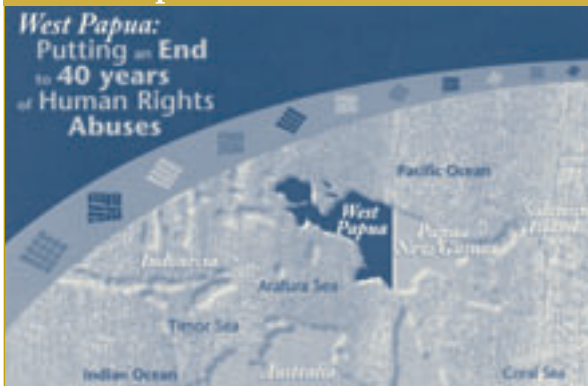


Photo: Chris Krulik

Human rights activist for over 15 years in West Papua, a territory under the military control of Indonesia since 1963; a lawyer and director of the Institute for Analysis, Research and Development of Legal Aid (LP3BH), Yan Christian Warinussy works tirelessly bringing to light human rights violations and defending those whose rights are abused in West Papua. His efforts to bring about a peaceful settlement of the conflict in West Papua have made him an example for the members of his community and for generations to come.

West Papua

*West Papua:
Putting an End
to 40 years
of Human Rights
Abuses*



West Papua has 1,500,000 inhabitants. Forty percent of the population arrived through the transmigration policy put in place by the Indonesian government in the 1970s. The number of West Papuans killed by Indonesian armed forces and militia since 1963 is estimated at 100,000 (15% of the population). West Papua is home to over 250 different tribes, some of whom have coexisted for over 10,000 years. They speak more than 200 languages and a hundred or so dialects, which represent 15% of all languages spoken in the world.

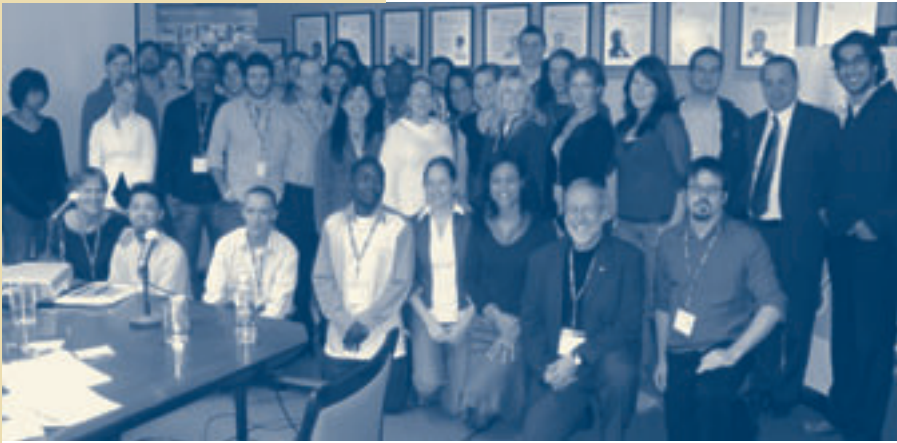


Photo: Aude Leroux-Lévesque

Representatives of the Rights & Democracy delegations attended the Network's national meeting, or "Mingler," held on March 23 and 24, 2006, in Montréal. The meeting provided participants the opportunity to discuss foreign policy and Canada's efforts to promote human rights and democracy throughout the world. Participants also shared their personal experiences and ideas regarding current and future initiatives on their respective campuses. The event gave them the chance to strengthen their national network of contacts. Nine provinces were represented, and a representative of the Network's first international delegation from Université de Ouagadougou in Burkina Faso attended the event.

The Rights & Democracy Network: Moving Toward North-South Cooperation

The Rights & Democracy Network continues to put down roots in Canada and abroad. In addition to its 40 delegations in Canada, the Network is internationalizing its activities by twinning some of its delegations in Canadian universities with delegations in developing countries. The Network's first twinning activity involved a delegation from the University of Moncton, which went to Burkina Faso in November 2005 to witness the presidential elections there. Several students from the delegation of Université de Ouagadougou then came to Canada to observe the January 23, 2006 federal elections. Other twinning initiatives are being planned for Africa, Asia and the Americas. Launched in 2003 with funding from Foreign Affairs Canada, the Rights & Democracy Network works to foster exchanges and reflection and to facilitate, within Canadian and foreign universities, the creation of forums where students can engage in activities related to human rights and democracy. For more information on the Network, visit the following Web site: www.rightsdemocracy.net.



Isabelle Jeté, Delphine Soertart, Pascale Labbé (front); Mireille Ouellet, Pauline Boinot, Myriam Paquette-Côté (back) from the Rights & Democracy delegation of Université Laval, winners of the "Projet AVENIR par excellence" grand prize for their project Sur la piste des réfugiés during the Forces Avenir Gala in September 2005. Organized in conjunction with the ministère de l'Éducation du Québec and Québec universities, the Forces Avenir Gala is an event that rewards the commitment, energy and initiative of university students. The Sur la piste des réfugiés project was so successful that a second edition took place from April 6 to 8, 2006 at Université Laval. Delegation members at the Université de Sherbrooke, in collaboration with the project's founders, also ran the project again from May 1 to 3, 2006. Supported by various partners, this initiative makes it possible to experience the difficult situations that refugees and displaced persons go through in refugee camps.

Urgent Action and Important Opportunities Initiative

During the conflict in Sierra Leone from 1991 to 2001, thousands of women and girls were victims of sexual violence. However, the violence committed against women remains Sierra Leone's hidden war crime. That is why we funded a training seminar for judges of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, on April 30 and May 1, 2005, to enable them to analyze the theoretical and legal framework of international law with respect to sexual violence perpetrated against women. Created in 2002 by an agreement between the United Nations and Sierra Leone, the Special Court is a new model of international justice, often characterized as a "mixed" or "hybrid" court. The court's mandate is to try people accused of serious crimes committed since 1996, including war crimes and crimes against humanity. The training provided was prepared by the Coalition for Women's Human Rights in Conflict Situations, created and coordinated by the team working on Rights & Democracy's Women's Rights theme. More information on the Coalition can be obtained by visiting the following Web site: www.womensrightscoalition.org.

Established by Rights & Democracy's Board of Directors, the "Urgent Actions and Important Opportunities Initiative" enables us to respond quickly to human rights violations or relevant events within the scope of our mandate that have not been earmarked in our regular budget.

Photo: UNESCO



Our Relationship *with the Government and Partnerships*

The High Commissioner for Human Rights

Rights & Democracy has entered into an agreement with the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to support the High Commissioner's plan of action for three years (2005-2008). We work together on three areas:

- 1 Strengthening national implementation of human rights in countries where Rights & Democracy and the OHCHR are active;
- 2 Providing equal opportunities for internships at OHCHR for young professionals from developing countries; and
- 3 Collaborating with their new rapid response unit to react to urgent human rights situations around the world.

We have been closely following the activities of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and its reform process for many years. We therefore viewed with great interest the creation of the Human Rights Council, which replaces the former UN Human Rights Commission. Set up under the terms of a UN General Assembly resolution adopted on March 15, 2006, the new Human Rights Council has 47 members, including Canada, and meets regularly, which will enable it to better respond to emergency situations. The Council is also in charge of setting up a universal, periodic review mechanism to examine the human rights record of all UN Member States. Furthermore, the Council has inherited the Commission's assets, namely the independent rapporteur system and the participation of non-governmental organizations.

National and International Partners

In the past year, Rights & Democracy has formed new partnerships with several national and international organizations. For example, we are currently entering into agreements with the Danish Institute for Human Rights and Equitas (formerly the Canadian Human Rights Foundation) to pool our expertise and consolidate our respective programs in certain countries. This cooperation will also make it possible to strengthen the African Commission for Human and Peoples' Rights, to foster intern exchanges and, in the medium term, create a staff exchange programme. We have also signed an agreement with Elections Canada to exchange information on Haiti and develop joint activities during the post-electoral period, as well as to create training and awareness-raising activities for young Canadians. In the coming year, we will work with the Law Commission of Canada on its consultations for the document entitled *Law in a Globalized World: Implementing Canada's International Obligations*. We will also continue to cooperate with the Canadian Association of Statutory Human Rights Agencies and its members, in order to explore potential ways for Canada's human rights commissions to cooperate at the international level.

The Canadian Government

In 2005-2006, we continued our fruitful cooperation with Foreign Affairs Canada and the Canadian International Development Agency, which are our main governmental partners, and with the Privy Council and other departments concerned with human rights issues, such as the Department of Justice, Heritage Canada and the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs. For example, in addition to jointly organizing the round table on emerging human rights issues, held on February 16 and 17, 2006, the Department's public diplomacy group helped organize a regional event on the Francophonie, youth and human rights with the Rights & Democracy delegation at Collège universitaire de Saint-Boniface, on February 2 and 3, 2006.

Some Partnerships with Canadian Coalitions

- The International Civil Liberties Monitoring Group, a pan-Canadian coalition in charge of monitoring the implementation of anti-terrorist measures adopted by Canada.
- The Canadian Coalition on Human Rights in China, a group of Canadian organizations that advocate for human rights in China, mainly through the UN Commission on Human Rights and Canada's bilateral human rights dialogue with China.
- The Canadian NGO Committee for Burma and the Canadian Advocacy Group on Indonesia (CAGI), two informal networks made up of Canadian organizations and individuals concerned with peace, rights and democracy in Burma and Indonesia. These two networks are linked to the Asia-Pacific Working Group of the Canadian Council for International Cooperation.
- Common Frontiers, a cross-sector working group that confronts the social, economic and environmental effects of economic integration of the Americas and proposes alternatives to them.
- The Americas Policy Group, the Africa Canada Forum, the Asia-Pacific Working Group and the Food Security Policy Group of the Canadian Council for International Cooperation.
- The Halifax Initiative, a coalition of environmental, labour, development and human rights organizations concerned with the policies and practices of international financial institutions.
- The Trade and Investment Project, a think tank that develops analysis and conducts research in support of the actions and lobbying activities of civil society organizations with regard to international trade and investment agreements.

We wish to thank all of our partners, in Canada and abroad, whose support makes it possible for us to pursue our mission.

Rights & Democracy has provided funding to many human rights projects, particularly in countries where such rights are trampled, in order to foster political change and build the capacity of institutions and programmes, mainly in developing countries. For more information on our projects, please visit our Web site.

Interns

This year, the Young Professionals International programme, funded by Foreign Affairs Canada, enabled eight young professionals to acquire experience abroad. The interns worked within organizations such as the African Commission for Human and Peoples' Rights, UNESCO, and the Continental Network of Indigenous Women, Enlace. For example, one young professional went to Nicaragua to investigate violence against the indigenous women of Nicaragua, Colombia and Ecuador. Another intern was sent to support the work of the Special Rapporteur on Women's Rights in Banjul. The internships were an opportunity for these young people to acquire experience and hone their knowledge in the field of human rights and democratic development, in addition to providing our partners with support and expertise.

Thanks to the Young Canada Works Program, we also provided three students with summer jobs. One of them worked at the Documentation Centre, while the other two helped the Rights & Democracy Network plan activities to be carried out in various regions throughout the year. In addition, 15 students obtained university credits for internships at our office, and another carried out field research in the Philippines for her Master's thesis.

Relationship with the Media

A busy schedule of events and activities across Canada and internationally kept Rights & Democracy's programmes in the public eye throughout the year. Rights & Democracy enjoyed excellent coverage on a number of important issues: over 120 news items, including Rights & Democracy's international conference on the Millennium Development Goals, featuring UN Special Representative on HIV/AIDS in Africa, Stephen Lewis (11 news items); efforts to promote the United Nations Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (13 news items); the campaign against faith-based arbitration of family law in Ontario (24 news items); the campaign marking Aung San Suu Kyi's tenth year under house arrest on October 24, 2005 (seven news items); the 2005 John Humphrey Freedom Award tour with West Papuan Yan Christian Warinussy (35 news items) and International Women's Day events on women's rights in Afghanistan (24 news items).

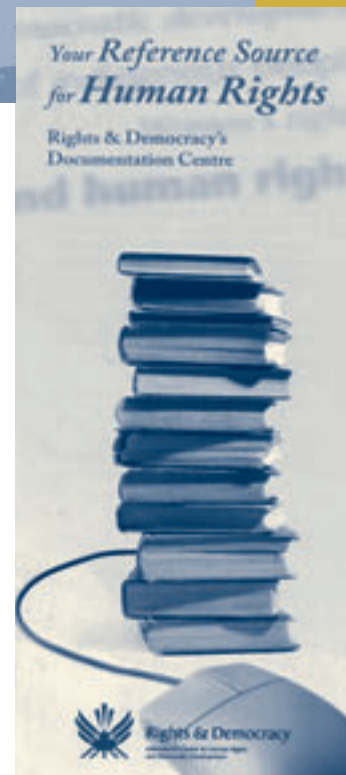
Rights & Democracy's work has been the subject of local coverage from Cowichan to Halifax, regular national coverage in the *Globe and Mail*, *Le Soleil*, *Le Devoir*, RDI, Radio-Canada, CBC and the *National Post* and international coverage from *Le Monde*, AFP, BBC, Radio Free Asia, Radio Canada International and Voice of America.

Documentation Centre Reopens to the Public

The Rights & Democracy Documentation Centre has been reopened to the public since March 2006, after budget cuts had forced it to close its doors three years earlier. Over the years, the Documentation Centre has amassed a wide collection of over 20,000 documents on international human rights, as well as over 300 documentary films, based on the research carried out by our staff and activities in the field. Our documentation on the themes we work on, particularly women's rights, the rights of indigenous peoples, democratic development, and globalization and human rights, is thus accessible to all. To consult our resources, call us at (514) 283-6073, extension 263, or contact us by e-mail at Document@dd-rd.ca.

New Web Site

Rights & Democracy launched its brand new Web site in December 2005. The complete revamping of our site took several months of work to make it more accessible and user-friendly. A new architecture, image and several new pages on our programmes and publications, the option of consulting our projects on-line, a schedule of events, a media centre, and the option of subscribing on-line to *Libertas* are just a few examples of the improvements to our site. Since these changes have been made, the number of hits has increased by 56% and continues to rise. For more details, visit our Web site at www.dd-rd.ca.



Recent Publications

Documenting Women's Rights Violations by Non-state Actors, by Jan Bauer and Anissa Hélie, a joint publication of Rights & Democracy and Women Living Under Muslim Laws, 2006.

Fundamentalisms and Human Rights, Meeting Report, Montréal, May 12–14, 2005.

Behind Closed Doors: How Faith-based Arbitration Shuts Out Women's Rights in Canada and Abroad, 2005.

Implementing the Millennium Development Goals: Our Human Rights Obligation, Meeting Report, Ottawa, June 6–7, 2005.

Canada's Bilateral Human Rights Dialogue with China: Considerations for a Policy Review, by Sophia Woodman and Carole Samdup, information document, June 2005.

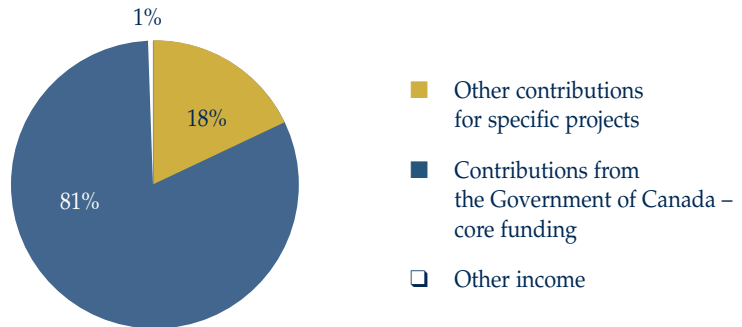
Democratic Governance Challenges and Opportunities for Strengthening Asia-Canada Partnerships, by Iris Almeida, 2005.

Most of our publications are available free of charge on our Web site. They can also be ordered on-line by visiting the Web site at www.dd-rd.ca. All of our publications are free for NGOs in developing countries.



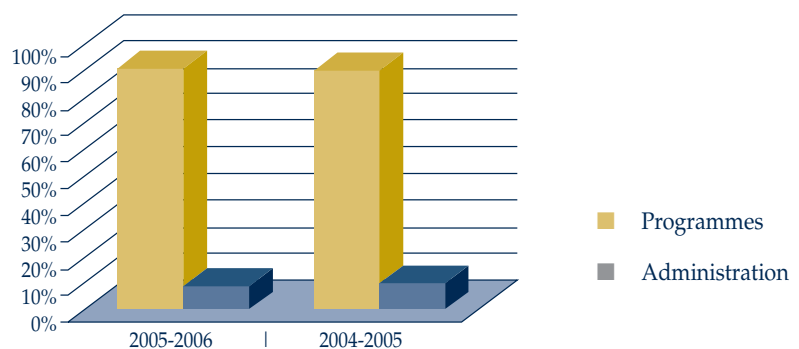
Analysis of Financial Statements

1 Sources of income



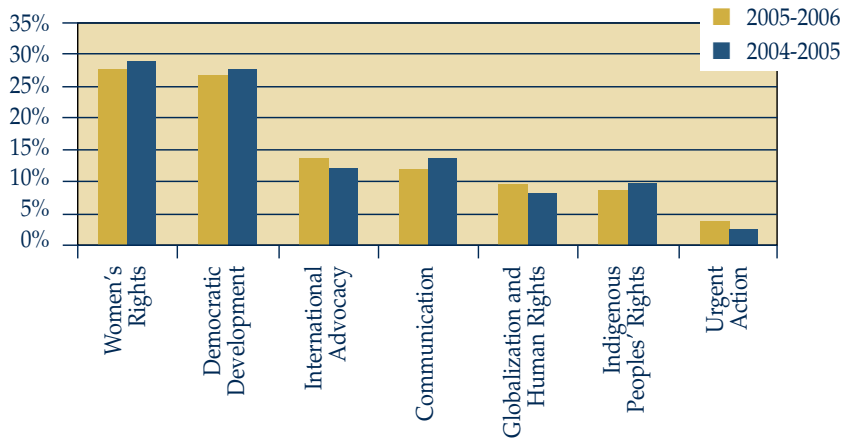
The income received by Rights & Democracy during the 2005-2006 fiscal year can be divided into three categories. Contributions from the Government of Canada for general operations represent 81% of total income, i.e., \$7.462M. A new agreement with the Government of Canada produced a \$2.6M increase in the funding of general operations compared to the previous year. In other respects, 18% of income is comprised of contributions that are tied to specific projects. These contributions come from the Government of Canada (\$1.230M) and other sources (\$0.427M). Finally, other types of income, such as donations, sales of publications and interest, make up the remaining 1% share of total income.

2 Breakdown of spending between programmes and administration



Rights & Democracy is always concerned with the breakdown of total spending between programmes and administration. Rights & Democracy's clearly stated objective in this respect is to minimize the percentage of expenditures not related to programmes. During the previous fiscal year, administrative expenses represented 10% of total expenditures. They have decreased by 1% and are now at 9%.

3 Breakdown of expenditures by theme



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

The expenditure breakdown among the various themes remained virtually the same as for the 2004-2005 fiscal year. This can be explained by the fact that, despite the decision to increase the proportion of funds allocated to democratic development, new staff only came on board mid-year and had little impact on the statements as of March 31. The breakdown for subsequent fiscal years should reflect this new trend.

4 Analysis of expenditures by category

	Statement 2005-2006	Statement 2004-2005	\$ Gap	% Gap
Projects	\$5 306 227	\$3 897 465	\$1 408 762	36%
Salaries and benefits	\$2 661 400	\$2 088 166	\$573 234	27%
Rent and office expenses	\$485 679	\$386 186	\$99 493	26%
Travel	\$140 906	\$134 373	\$6 533	5%
Information	\$78 793	\$84 607	\$5 814 -	-7%
Board of Directors	\$77 007	\$118 407	\$41 400 -	-35%
	\$8 750 012	\$6 709 204	\$2 040 808	30%

In order to facilitate analysis, some expenses were grouped differently than the presentation in the financial statements. The increase in dollars and percentage, for most categories and in the total is a direct outcome of the budget increase. The analysis below summarizes the breakdown of the budget increase granted by the Canadian government.

The most significant change affects projects. The projects are the vehicle through which Rights & Democracy fulfills its mandate by working in developing countries and at the regional and international levels. The proportion of expenses linked to projects should not decrease if income increases at a pace equal to or above inflation.

The increase in expenditure linked to labour can be explained mainly by the number of people hired throughout the year. During the 2005-2006 fiscal year, three new programme officer positions were created: Caribbean, Asia and Middle East. Furthermore, the Rights & Democracy Network consolidated its team by adding a liaison officer and a webmaster. The rest of the increase comes from the creation of an administrative support team, and from an overall wage increase provided in the collective agreement.

Office rental expenses increased by almost \$0.1M. The arrival of new staff made it necessary to increase the size of the office space as of November 2005. These new premises have been fitted out, furnished and equipped.

Travel expenses remained relatively stable in relation to the previous year. There are two major reasons for this: Rights & Democracy's determination to limit the number of trips by making sure that travel is relevant before authorizing it, and the fact that employees are aware of the budgetary impacts of missions abroad.

The information item includes, among others, publications, the *Libertas* newsletter and electronic Libert@s, and the annual report. These expenses have remained constant compared to the 2004-2005 fiscal year.

Finally, the expenses linked to remuneration and travel for the members of the Board of Directors have decreased by \$0.041M compared to the previous year. This situation is due to the fact that the new members of the Board were appointed by the Government in council mid-fiscal year, and three positions are still vacant.

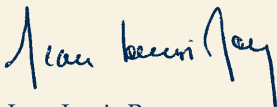
Management Report

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

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

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

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



Jean-Louis Roy
President



Marie-France Cloutier
*Director of Administration
& Resources*

Montreal, Canada
May 12, 2006

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, 2006 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 Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that I plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In my opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Centre as at March 31, 2006 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.



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

Ottawa, Canada
May 12, 2006

INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRATIC DEVELOPMENT

BALANCE SHEET AS AT MARCH 31

ASSETS	2006	2005
Current		
Term deposits (Note 4)	\$ 1,970,876	\$ 1,765,876
Accrued interest	18,475	15,383
Accounts receivable	141,651	48,411
Contributions receivable	135,020	116,195
Prepaid expenses	81,157	69,498
	2,347,179	2,015,363
Long Term		
Property and equipment (Note 5)	928,144	399,619
	\$ 3,275,323	\$ 2,414,982

LIABILITIES

Current		
Bank overdraft	\$ 325,557	\$ 548,930
Accounts payable	204,345	148,427
Accrued salaries and vacations	342,896	340,072
Termination benefits payable	139,828	-----
Grants payable	345,490	125,000
Obligation under capital leases (Note 6)	33,485	25,069
Deferred contributions (Note 7)	170,367	453,322
	1,561,968	1,640,820
Long Term		
Deferred lease inducements	210,613	90,432
Obligation under capital leases (Note 6)	148,287	110,030
	358,900	200,462
Deferred capital funding (Note 8)	564,938	206,338
	2,485,806	2,047,620


EQUITY

Equity	789,517	367,362
	\$ 3,275,323	\$ 2,414,982

Commitments (Note 11)

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

Approved by:



Jean-Louis Roy
President of Rights & Democracy



Janice Stein
Chair of the Board

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31

	2006	2005
Expenses (Note 9)		
Programmes and Activities		
Women's Rights	\$ 2,147,518	\$ 1,736,387
Democratic Development	2,064,969	1,644,001
International Human Rights Advocacy	1,060,953	718,093
Communication and Public Education	924,524	813,162
Globalization and Human Rights	729,006	469,310
Rights of Indigenous Peoples	648,160	565,874
Urgent Action and Important Opportunities	268,968	124,826
	<hr/> 7,844,098	<hr/> 6,071,653
General administration	766,086	637,551
Cost of operations before termination benefits	<hr/> 8,610,184	<hr/> 6,709,204
Termination benefits	139,828	-----
Cost of operations after termination benefits	<hr/> 8,750,012	<hr/> 6,709,204
Revenues		
Contributions from the Government of Canada and other related entities for specific projects (Note 10)	1,230,263	983,617
Other contributions (Note 10)	437,215	613,447
Interest	43,186	33,388
	<hr/> 1,710,664	<hr/> 1,630,452
Results of operations before funding from the Government of Canada	<hr/> 7,039,348	<hr/> 5,078,752
Funding from the Government of Canada		
Parliamentary appropriation - Core funding	7,378,442	4,803,692
Amortization of deferred capital funding (Note 8)	83,061	70,890
	<hr/> 7,461,503	<hr/> 4,874,582
Results of operations for the year	422,155	(204,170)
Equity, beginning of year	367,362	571,532
Equity, end of year	<hr/> \$ 789,517	<hr/> \$ 367,362

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

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31

	2006	2005
Cash provided by (used in) operating activities		
Results of operations for the year	\$ 422,155	\$ (204,170)
Items not affecting cash		
Amortization of property and equipment	145,261	112,046
Amortization of deferred capital funding	(83,061)	(70,890)
Loss on disposal of capital lease	44,286	-----
	528,641	(163,014)
Increase in accrued interest	(3,092)	(12,630)
Decrease (increase) in accounts receivable	(93,240)	52,859
Decrease (increase) in contributions receivable	(18,825)	11,728
Increase in prepaid expenses	(11,659)	(35,193)
Increase (decrease) in accounts payable	55,918	(58,433)
Increase (decrease) in accrued salaries and vacations	2,824	(29,443)
Increase in termination benefits payable	139,828	-----
Increase (decrease) in grants payable	220,490	(56,273)
Increase (decrease) in deferred lease inducements	120,181	(17,508)
Increase (decrease) in deferred contributions	(282,955)	138,878
	658,111	(169,029)
Cash provided by (used in) financing activities		
Parliamentary appropriation – capital funding	441,661	69,412
Obligation under capital leases	131,476	82,149
Reduction of obligation under capital lease	(56,923)	-----
Payments on obligation under capital leases	(27,880)	(21,157)
	488,334	130,404
Cash provided by (used in) investing activities		
Acquisition of term deposits	(6,323,322)	(3,811,329)
Redemption of term deposits	6,118,322	3,511,329
Acquisition of property and equipment	(586,596)	(69,412)
Acquisition under capital leases	(131,476)	(82,149)
	(923,072)	(451,561)
Net change in bank overdraft	223,373	(490,186)
Bank overdraft, beginning of the year	(548,930)	(58,744)
Bank overdraft, end of the year	\$ (325,557)	\$ (548,930)

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

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS MARCH 31, 2006

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**
Rights & Democracy is mainly funded by the Government of Canada. The portion of the parliamentary appropriation used to finance the acquisition of property and equipment is recorded as deferred capital funding and amortized on the same basis and over the same period as the related property and equipment. The other portion of the appropriation is recorded in the statement of operations in the year for which it is approved.
- b) **Contributions**
Rights & Democracy follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions. Contributions externally restricted are deferred and recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue when received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.
- c) **Grant expenses**
Grants are charged to operations in the year in which the criteria for awarding the grants are met.
- d) **Term deposits**
Term deposits are recorded at cost.
- e) **Property and equipment**
Furniture and equipment 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 over the term of the lease.
- f) **Pension plan**
All eligible employees participate in the Public Service Pension Plan administered by the Government of Canada. Rights & Democracy's contributions reflect the full cost as employer. This amount is currently based on a multiple of an employee's required contributions and may change over time depending on the experience of the Plan. Rights & Democracy's contributions are expensed during the year in which the services are rendered and represent the total pension obligation of Rights & Democracy. Rights & Democracy is not currently required to make contributions with respect to any actuarial deficiencies of the Public Service Pension Plan. These benefits represent the only obligation of Rights & Democracy that entails settlement by future payment.
- g) **Deferred lease inducements**
Cost incurred by the lessor on behalf of Rights & Democracy are recorded on the balance sheet as deferred lease inducements. These deferred lease inducements are amortized on a straight line basis as a reduction to the expense over the term of the lease.

3. Fair value of financial instruments

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

4. Term deposits

As at March 31, 2006 the term deposits have an average interest rate of 3.55% (2.43% in 2005) and an average term maturity of 365 days (365 days in 2005).

5. Property and equipment

		2006		2005
	Cost	Accumulated Amortization	Net	Net
Furniture and equipment	\$ 847,015	\$ 498,647	\$ 348,368	\$ 153,746
Data processing equipment	515,496	354,167	161,329	109,850
Leasehold improvements	549,677	131,230	418,447	136,023
	\$ 1,912,188	\$ 984,044	\$ 928,144	\$ 399,619

The above assets include equipment under capital leases for a total cost of \$213,625 (\$167,950 in 2005), less accumulated amortization of \$37,133 (\$41,200 in 2005).

6. Obligations under capital leases

Rights & Democracy has entered into agreements to rent office equipment under capital leases. The obligations under these capital leases have been discounted a rate of interest varying from 9.5 to 15.59 % per annum. The related obligations are paid over a 5-6 year lease term. Minimum lease payments totalling \$45,068 (\$34,434 in 2005) for the year ended March 31, 2006, including interest of \$17,188 (\$13,278 in 2005), were charged to results.

At March 31, 2006, the future minimum lease payments are:

	2007	\$ 50,003
	2008	50,003
	2009	50,003
	2010	45,876
	2011	31,104
Total future minimum lease payments		226,989
Less: imputed interest		(45,217)
		181,772
Short term portion		(33,485)
		\$ 148,287

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:

	2006	2005
Deferred contributions, beginning of year	\$ 453,322	\$ 314,444
Amount recognized as revenue in the year (Note 10)	(427,254)	(172,084)
Canadian International Development Agency		
Strengthening of Haitian Civil Society Project	53,799	-----
Canada Corps: Strengthening of Governance in Africa	51,987	-----
Economic Integration and Human Rights in the Americas	1,320	-----
Inter-Pares		
National Health and Education Committee Project	-----	847
Participation in the Beijing Platform	-----	2,500
Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade		
International Internships for Young Professionals	257	-----
International Development Research Centre		
Research Project	-----	307,250
Canadian Institute for Environment Law Protection		
Think Link Project	6,159	-----
Development & Peace		
Advocacy Project in Indonesia	691	-----
Contributions to the International Civil Liberties Monitoring Group	25,505	-----
Donations	4,581	365
Deferred contributions, end of year	\$ 170,367	\$ 453,322

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

Canadian International Development Agency		
Afghan Women Project	\$ -----	\$ 140,645
Strengthening of Haitian Civil Society Project	53,799	-----
Canada Corps: Strengthening of Governance in Africa	51,987	-----
Economic Integration and Human Rights in the Americas	1,320	-----
Inter-Pares		
National Health and Education Committee Project	-----	847
Participation in the Beijing Platform	2,015	2,500
Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade		
International Internships for Young Professionals	257	-----
International Development Research Centre		
Research Project	23,627	307,250
Canadian Institute for Environment Law Protection		
Think Link Project	6,159	-----
Development & Peace		
Advocacy Project in Indonesia	691	-----
Contributions to the International Civil Liberties Monitoring Group	25,505	-----
Donations	5,007	2,080
	\$ 170,367	\$ 453,322

8. Deferred capital funding

	2006	2005
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 206,338	\$ 207,816
Parliamentary appropriation – capital funding	441,661	69,412
Amortization of deferred capital funding	(83,061)	(70,890)
Balance, end of year	\$ 564,938	\$ 206,338

9. Expenses

	2006		2005	
	Programmes and activities	General Administration	Total	Total
Projects	\$ 5,167,333	\$ -----	\$ 5,167,333	\$ 3,792,539
Salaries and employee benefits	1,889,011	424,307	2,313,318	1,904,387
Rent	153,654	67,958	221,612	184,991
Professional fees	101,138	107,116	208,254	183,779
Amortization of property and equipment	101,218	44,043	145,261	112,046
Travel	128,943	11,963	140,906	134,373
Cost of awards	138,894	-----	138,894	104,926
Information	69,658	9,135	78,793	84,607
Board fees and expenses	-----	77,007	77,007	118,407
Mail and telephony	38,084	9,923	48,007	40,171
Office expenses	37,932	9,883	47,815	29,847
Miscellaneous	18,233	4,751	22,984	19,131
	\$ 7,844,098	\$ 766,086	\$ 8,610,184	\$ 6,709,204
Termination benefits	139,828	-----	139,828	-----
	\$ 7,983,926	\$ 766,086	\$ 8,750,012	\$ 6,709,204

10. Contributions

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

	2006	2005
Other contributions for specific projects	\$ 424,194	\$ 578,287
Contributions from the Government of Canada for specific projects (1)	664,982	521,223
Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (1)		
International Youth Internship Programme	141,012	120,526
Rights & Democracy Student Network	-----	200,000
General contributions	10,036	4,944
	1,240,224	1,424,980
Amount of deferred contributions recognized as revenue in the year (Note 7)		
Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (1)		
ICC Workshop in African Lusophone Countries	-----	45,000
Rights & Democracy Student Network	-----	54,469
Canadian International Development Agency (1)		
Research on Girls in the Military	-----	2,624
Women's Rights in Afghanistan Fund	140,645	39,775
International Development Research Centre (1)	283,624	-----
Inter-Pares		
National Health and Education Committee Project	485	25,284
Donations	2,500	4,932
	427,254	172,084
	\$ 1,667,478	\$ 1,597,064
The composition of contributions as at March 31 st is as follows:		
Contributions from the Government of Canada and other related entities (1) for specific projects	\$ 1,230,263	\$ 983,617
Other contributions	437,215	613,447
	\$ 1,667,478	\$ 1,597,064

11. Commitments

a) **Leases** - Rights & Democracy has entered into a lease for the rental of office space until 2016. The balance of the commitment under the lease is \$2,717,539. Minimum payments payable over subsequent years are as follows:

2007	\$ 270,068
2008	270,068
2009	270,068
2010	270,068
2011 and subsequent	1,637,267
	\$ 2,717,539

b) **Grants** - As of March 31, 2006, Rights & Democracy has approved grants totaling \$835,000 in the coming years, under certain conditions.

12. Employee future benefits

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

	2006	2005
Rights & Democracy	\$ 307,491	\$ 256,352
Employees	\$ 115,690	\$ 94,816