



Rights & Democracy

International Centre for Human Rights
and Democratic Development

ANNUAL REPORT 1999-2000

**Apela ante tribunal
para salir de Perú**

...do continúa campaña por "resca
la democracia" en masivo

**Free-trade deal ignores
human rights, activists say**

Chiapas : une dernière chance au dialogue

Annual Report 1999-2000



Rights & Democracy

International Centre for Human Rights
and Democratic Development

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history and mandate

In 1988, Canada's Parliament created a non-partisan organization with an international mandate to encourage and support the universal values of human rights and the promotion of democratic institutions and practices around the world.

The International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development, now known as Rights & Democracy, officially opened its doors in October 1990. It works with individuals, organizations and governments in Canada and abroad to promote human and democratic rights as defined in the United Nations' *International Bill of Human Rights*.

Although its mandate is wide-ranging, Rights & Democracy concentrates its work around four themes: democratic development, women's human rights, globalization and human rights, and indigenous peoples' rights. It initiates and supports projects that advocate human rights and democratic development and strengthens the capacity of its partners to do the same.

Rights & Democracy is uniquely placed to facilitate dialogue between government officials and non-governmental organizations in Canada and abroad. It is one of the very few organizations with the necessary credibility on both sides to play this bridge-building role.

Advocacy: To inform public opinion and to call for policy changes with respect to the promotion and defence of human rights and democratic development.

Capacity Building: To strengthen the capacity of civil society organizations to achieve their human rights goals and to build democratic processes and institutions.

Rights & Democracy receives the majority of its funding from Canada's Overseas Development Assistance Budget through the Canadian International Development Agency. The financial year runs from April 1 to March 31 of the following year. Each year, the Chairperson of the Board of Directors submits a report on Rights & Democracy's activities 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 has consultative status (Category II) with the United Nations Economic and Social Council and is on the International Labour Organization's Special List of NGOs. It is a non-profit charitable organization (registration number 0808345-59). Donations are tax deductible.

chairperson's message



This year marks our tenth anniversary. As we celebrate this milestone, we look at the past decade with pride for work well done. At the same time, we recognize the need to adapt to the rapidly changing human rights world around us. Over the past twelve months we have made major changes at Rights & Democracy, which we hope will make us more visible and relevant to Canadians and enable us to do our work more effectively.

I am happy to say we have changed our name, our logo, our location, and the presentation of our newsletter, *Libertas*. For the first time in four years, we have a full complement of 13 Board members, a new academic contact list and volunteer corps, and some fundamentally new policy changes, not the least of which is an urgent action capability.

The new appointments to our Board are very impressive. I am honoured and very pleased to welcome Dr. Harry Arthurs, Chief Lydia Hwitsum, Robert Pace, Suzanne Laporte, Professor Juan Mendez, and Father Michel Corbeil. We are very grateful to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Lloyd Axworthy, for making such wonderful appointments in a very timely way and for giving us our full complement. We said a sad good-bye to Irwin Cotler as he took up his new seat in the House of Commons and Huguette Labelle as her term expired. We will greatly miss both of them for their long service and commitment to Rights & Democracy.

Our new volunteer program and contact list of experts will create stronger links with the community and will provide more ready access to current knowledge on human rights, democracy and development issues in areas where we may lack expertise or need access to different perspectives. The annual "think tank," now in its second year, provides us an opportunity to meet with representatives from government, academia, the activist community, foundations and aboriginal groups to debate thematic issues, common interests, or other current human rights and democracy topics.

Finally, a word about our new policy directions. As of last fall, the Board decided that we should alter our approach to regional programming by subordinating, and sometimes eliminating, it in favour of giving priority to our themes of democratic development, women's human rights, globalization and human rights, and indigenous peoples' rights. At the same time, we have developed an urgent action and important opportunities mechanism, funded by reordering our priorities in other areas. Four oversight committees comprised of members of the Board will review the work in the four thematic areas and be regularly informed of the activities of the urgent action team. These changes will give us the flexibility we need to be a more effective critical presence, especially where unanticipated egregious human rights violations occur or where crucial opportunities arise on short notice where we feel our presence is essential.

We are confident that these changes will assist Rights & Democracy in carrying on its excellent and vitally important work into the next decade and beyond.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Kathleen Mahoney". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Kathleen Mahoney, Chairperson

board of directors

Directed by Warren Allmand since February 1997 (and by Edward Broadbent from 1989 to 1996), Rights & Democracy is governed by a 13-member Board of Directors, named by the Governor-in-Council. Three members of the Board are from developing countries. Distinguished advocates of human rights, such as Nobel Peace Laureate Oscar Arias, Asma Jahangir from Pakistan, and Cecilia Medina from Chile, have served on the Board. The current international members are Willy Munyoki Mutunga from Kenya, Kamal Hossain from Bangladesh, and Juan E. Mendez, originally from Argentina.

SEATED FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:

David Matas is a lawyer from Winnipeg, Canada and former President of the Canadian Council of Refugees.

Kathleen Mahoney is Chairperson of the Board of Directors. She is a Professor of Law at the University of Calgary in Canada, specializing in human rights.

Warren Allmand, President of Rights & Democracy, is a lawyer and former Solicitor General of Canada.

Thérèse Paquet-Sévigny is Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors and former Secretary General and Senior Advisor to ORBICOM, the international network of UNESCO Chairs and its Associates, based in Montréal, Canada.

STANDING FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:

Kamal Hossain is Chairperson of the Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust and the United Nations' Special Rapporteur on Afghanistan.

Willy Munyoki Mutunga is a lawyer, Executive Director of the Kenya Human Rights Commission and Co-Chairperson of the Citizens Coalition for Constitutional Change.

Robert Pace is the President and Chief Executive Officer of Pace Group Ltd., which owns several companies including Maritime Broadcasting Systems in Halifax, Canada.

Iona Campagnolo is a former Cabinet Minister in Canada and is currently Chairperson of the Fraser Basin Council in Vancouver, Canada.

Harry W. Arthurs, former Dean of Osgoode Hall Law School, is currently a professor of law and political science at York University in Toronto, Canada.

Suzanne Laporte is a former Canadian Ambassador in several countries in West Africa and is currently Assistant Deputy Minister of Human Resources at the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade in Ottawa, Canada.



ABSENT:

Michel Corbeil is a Jesuit priest and social activist who co-founded Salut, le Monde! as well as the Fondation Jeunes et Sociétés in Montréal, Canada.

Lydia A. Hwitsum is the elected Chief of Cowichan Tribes on Vancouver Island in Canada and member of the Board of Directors of the Tale'awtxw Aboriginal Capital Corporation.

Juan E. Mendez, former Executive Director of the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights, is currently Professor of Law at the University of Notre Dame in Indiana in the United States.

president's message



With the start of a new millennium, the human rights community faces a number of critical challenges. The gap between rich and poor is widening, armed conflict is destroying already fragile countries, and many states are struggling to make a peaceful and legitimate transition to democracy. The globalization of trade has transformed international relations in ways difficult to imagine when our institution was first created in 1988. While there is strong rhetoric in favour of human rights, the reality is that governments too often cast aside their international human rights obligations in favour of commercial and political interests.

During the past fiscal year, Rights & Democracy undertook 117 projects for the benefit of developing countries. In cooperation with Canadian and international partners, these projects helped to advocate the principles of the *International Bill of Human Rights* and to strengthen the capacity of local citizens to foster human rights and democratic institutions.

Given the public concern with respect to the increasing hemispheric integration of the Americas, Rights & Democracy worked to promote transparency and public participation in the decision-making process. We advocated the strengthening of the human rights system at the Organization of American States (OAS) and the ratification of the American Convention on Human Rights by the Canadian government. We promoted the access of indigenous groups in the Americas to the OAS as well as to the United Nations, and we were active in the UN's working group on the draft declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples. We lobbied the Canadian government to denounce Peru's withdrawal from the Inter-American Court.

Through speeches, press conferences and published articles, we also raised the profile of certain international human rights issues in Canada, such as the restoration of democracy in Haiti, Peru and Burma, the peace process in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the ratification of the Rome Statute for an International Criminal Court, and the promotion of human rights in international trade agreements.

In our lobbying efforts at the 56th session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, we focused on the lack of censure on China's deteriorating human rights record, the need to promote human rights in trade agreements and the adoption of a resolution on women's rights to land ownership, personal property and adequate housing.

The International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development recently adopted a new look and moved to a new location. We now have a short name, Rights & Democracy, which describes us well and a new logo that clearly identifies us as a Canadian organization.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our human rights partners in Canada and internationally, who struggle on a daily basis to ensure freedom, justice and peace in the world. We admire and appreciate your courage and cooperation.

Our human rights work is still desperately needed in today's complex world. The experience we have gained in the past decade positions us to provide continuing leadership in resolving difficult human rights problems. In this our tenth anniversary, we look forward to pursuing our mandate with confidence and enthusiasm.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "warren.allmand". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Warren Allmand, President

staff



SEATED FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:

Augie van Biljouw, Deputy Director of Communications

Danielle Slawter, Administrative Assistant to the Management Coordinator

Marie St-Louis, Assistant Coordinator, Indigenous Peoples' Rights

Jennifer Proudfoot, Assistant Coordinator, Democratic Development

Iris Almeida, Director of Programmes

Lucie Léveill , Urgent Action Assistant

Mary Durran, Communications Assistant

MIDDLE ROW, STANDING FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:

V ronique Bosset, Assistant Comptroller

Madeleine Desnoyers, Americas Regional Officer

Patricia Daigle, Assistant to the President

Nancy Thede, Coordinator, Democratic Development

Marie-France Cloutier, Comptroller

Warren Allmand, President

Micheline (Mika) L vesque, Asia Regional Officer

Marie L ger, Coordinator, Indigenous Peoples' Rights

Serge Rousseau, Coordinator, Documentation Centre

Louise Lavall e, Assistant Coordinator, Documentation Centre

BACK ROW, STANDING FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:

Raymond Bourgeois, Management Coordinator

Gisela Barraza, Administrative Assistant, Programmes

Patricia Poirier, Director of Communications

Akou t  Akakpo-Vidah, Africa Regional Officer

Diana Bronson, Coordinator, Globalization

Isabelle Solon Helal, Assistant Coordinator, Women's Rights

Carole Samdup, Assistant Coordinator, Globalization

Patrick St-Louis, Receptionist

Antonio Jos  Almeida, Senior Assistant, Programmes

ABSENT:

Ariane Brunet, Coordinator, Women's Rights

Monique Lamarre, Administrative Assistant, Communications

the year in review

Rights & Democracy provides financial, political, moral, and technical support to its partners in Canada and abroad. Partners include human rights, indigenous peoples' and women's rights groups, as well as democratic movements around the world with whom Rights & Democracy cooperates to promote human rights and democracy.

Rights & Democracy's work involves advocating policy changes with respect to human rights and democracy, especially in areas where such rights are abused or not recognized. Rights & Democracy also calls on the Canadian and other governments, the member states of the United Nations and national and international organizations to adhere to existing human rights conventions and to develop and improve charters, declarations, treaties, institutions and enforcement mechanisms. Its work also involves building the capacity of civil society groups to be self-sufficient in promoting and defending human rights and democratic development.

Rights & Democracy initiates and supports projects that have an advocacy and/or capacity-building component. These projects are concentrated around four themes, namely, democratic development, women's rights, globalization and human rights and indigenous peoples' rights. In the past fiscal year, these projects were implemented principally in the following countries: Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Nigeria, Rwanda, Togo, Guatemala, Haiti, Mexico, Peru, Burma, Indonesia, Pakistan and Thailand.



THERE ARE TWO TYPES OF PROJECTS:

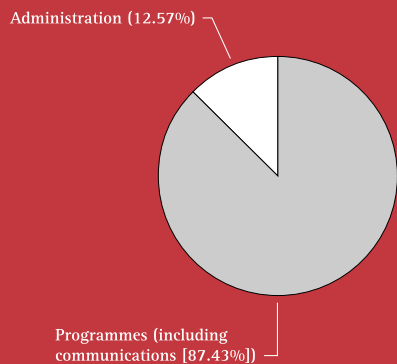
- 1. Staff-managed projects**, which Rights & Democracy staff are responsible for designing, implementing and evaluating, following consultation and often in collaboration with other local, regional, Canadian and international organizations with expertise in the area of work; and
- 2. Grant projects**, which the beneficiary of financial, technical and political support is responsible for designing, implementing and evaluating. Grant projects may be local, national, regional or international, including those developed in partnership with Canadian NGOs, institutions and multilateral organizations. A grant project goes beyond the transfer of funds, in that it enables Rights & Democracy to share expertise with the beneficiary of the grant. Each beneficiary presents a project evaluation report.

During the past year, Rights & Democracy implemented 117 projects (25 staff-managed and 92 grants) under 9 different programmes (democratic development: 7; women’s rights: 17; globalization and human rights: 12; indigenous peoples’ rights: 9; Africa: 16; Americas: 24; Asia: 19; Canada: 10; International: 3), for a total of \$2,227,758, which represents 46% of Rights & Democracy’s total operating budget for the fiscal year.

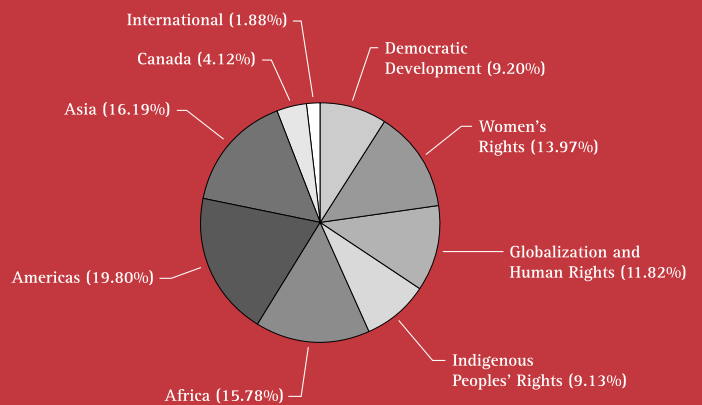
During the past year, Rights & Democracy worked to:

- mainstream women’s human rights in national and international institutions such as the United Nations;
- promote awareness of women’s rights violations in conflict situations;
- promote human rights in international trade agreements and strengthen civil society participation in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum (APEC);
- encourage states to ratify the Rome Statute for the creation of an International Criminal Court;
- promote democratic development in the context of hemispheric integration of the Americas;
- advocate the ratification of the American Convention on Human Rights by the Canadian government;
- strengthen the capacity of civil society organizations to have a voice in the implementation of the Guatemala Peace Accords;
- encourage international recognition of indigenous peoples’ rights;
- develop tools for indigenous women to protect their art and crafts designs;
- end impunity for gross human rights violations in Africa’s Great Lakes Region and strengthen the participation of civil society organizations in the democratic process;
- strengthen opportunities for peace and democratic development in the Democratic Republic of the Congo;
- end the abusive use of national security laws in Asia;
- support Burma’s pro-democracy movement and government in exile, the National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma (NCGUB).

BREAKDOWN OF MONIES SPENT PROGRAMMES VS ADMINISTRATION



BREAKDOWN OF MONIES SPENT PER PROGRAMME



democratic development

Rights & Democracy works in cooperation with its partners to strengthen democratic institutions and promote access of civil society organizations to public policy debate and decision-making. It also identifies strategies to support democratic development using a framework of human rights indicators. It has completed seven democratic development studies in Kenya, El Salvador, Tanzania, Thailand, Guatemala, Pakistan and Peru.

During the past year, the Democratic Development Programme focused on promoting transparency and participation in policy discussions in the context of hemispheric integration of the Americas. It worked to support the strengthening of the human rights system at the Organization of American States (OAS) and advocated the ratification of the American Convention on Human Rights by the Canadian government. It initiated and supported 7 projects (4 staff-managed and 3 grants) for a total of \$201,259.

DEMOCRACY IN THE AMERICAS – \$61,260*

This staff-managed project promotes democratic development in the context of the hemispheric integration of the Americas. As the Organization of American States plays an increasingly greater role in the integration process, Rights & Democracy has advocated structures that respect democratic and human rights standards and promote citizen participation. Rights & Democracy also worked with a coalition of human rights NGOs from throughout the Americas lobbying the OAS on human rights issues and called on the Canadian government to ratify the American Convention on Human Rights and the San Salvador Protocol, and to promote the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Rights & Democracy organized a symposium entitled “Hemispheric Integration and Democracy in the Americas: Citizenship, Participation, Accountability” prior to the OAS General Assembly in Windsor, Canada in June 2000.

DEMOCRATIC DEVELOPMENT STUDY, MEXICO – \$11,510

Using its Democratic Development Framework, Rights & Democracy initiated its eighth country study. This project involved civil society seminars based on the framework, along with research and interviews. Two studies were carried out: a survey of the literature published in Mexico on democratic development since 1994, and a repertory of Mexican organizations active on issues of democracy, governance and citizenship. Rights & Democracy worked closely with Alianza Cívica and Acción Ciudadana por la Democracia y la Vida on this staff-managed project.

ACCIÓN CIUDADANA POR LA DEMOCRACIA Y LA VIDA – \$25,000

This coalition, which brings together six networks of Mexican civil society organizations, worked to ensure that the perspectives of the Mexican people are taken

into account in the debates on national policy objectives and priorities in view of the presidential elections in July 2000. The grant helped the coalition to increase civil society’s awareness of political issues, political candidates’ awareness of civil society issues, and the participation of civil society in the democratic process.

RESEARCH FOR ADVOCACY IN DEMOCRATIC DEVELOPMENT – \$18,799

Rights & Democracy continued to assess and analyze emerging trends in democratic development. This staff-managed project involved research related to the link between human rights and democracy, publication of an article on the link between citizenship and human rights, as well as work with the Institut interdisciplinaire d’éthique et des droits de l’homme and participation in the *Human Rights in Development Yearbook*.

HUMAN RIGHTS IN DEVELOPMENT YEARBOOK 1999 CHRISTIAN MICHELSEN INSTITUTE (CMI) – \$10,000

CMI is a social science research institution working on issues of development and human rights. The yearbook project, started in 1985 by the Norwegian Human Rights Project and CMI, publishes comprehensive assessments of human rights trends in a number of countries in the South. As a member of the editorial board, Rights & Democracy contributed this grant towards the costs of publication.

ADVOCACY FOR A STRONG, EFFECTIVE AND ENGENDERED INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT (ICC) – \$49,690

Through this staff-managed project, Rights & Democracy advocated the creation of a strong, effective ICC that will integrate a gender perspective, and lobbied governments for wide ratification of the Rome Statute with no opt-out declarations. It worked to raise the awareness of the Canadian public to the necessity of an effective ICC that would end impunity for gross human

*all staff-managed projects include salaries

rights violations and encouraged the Canadian government to promote the ratification of the Rome Statute by providing legal assistance and funds to less developed countries. Rights & Democracy served on the Steering Committee of the NGO Coalition for an International Criminal Court, the Women's Caucus for Gender Justice, the Canadian Network for an International Criminal Court, and worked with many organizations, including Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, World Federalists Movement and the International Commission of Jurists.

women's rights

Rights & Democracy works in cooperation with its partners to defend and promote women's human rights. In particular, it promotes the integration of women's human rights within the United Nations system and other international organizations. It also helps document women's rights violations and has been particularly active in addressing violence against women in armed conflict situations.

During the past fiscal year, the Women's Rights Programme implemented 17 projects (5 staff-managed and 12 grants) for a total of \$305,390.

NGO COALITION FOR WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS IN CONFLICT SITUATIONS – \$127,605

Rights & Democracy works to ensure that states are held accountable for violence against women and to create the legal precedents needed to recognize violence against women in conflict situations. Its Women's Rights Programme coordinates the NGO Coalition for Women's Human Rights in Conflict Situations, which has established a Monitoring Project to promote the adequate prosecution of perpetrators of gender-based crimes at the International Criminal Tribunal in Rwanda. The Coalition seeks solutions to the invisibility of abuses to women's human rights in conflict situations, condemns the practice of rape and other inhuman treatment of women as deliberate instruments of war and ensures that these are prosecuted as war crimes, torture, crimes against humanity and crimes of genocide, when appropriate. Working at the local and international level, Coalition members act as resource-persons on issues such as the integration of a gender perspective in peace negotiations and promoting women's contribution to building a culture of peace in different political, social and regional contexts. The Women's Rights Programme also publishes an occasional newsletter on women's human rights in conflict situations and manages a listserv, an effective tool for joint action and amicus curiae briefs and letters, that allows coalition members to exchange information and experiences over

PARTICIPATION OF SOUTHERN WOMEN NGO REPRESENTATIVES IN THE ICC, WOMEN'S CAUCUS FOR GENDER JUSTICE – \$25,000

The Women's Caucus for Gender Justice is an international coalition of organizations and activists that concentrates on women's human rights. It was formed in February 1997 to promote a gender perspective in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. This project provided funds to the Caucus to enable women from southern countries to participate in the ICC Preparatory Committee Sessions and the Rome Diplomatic Conference.

the Internet. Partners of Rights & Democracy in this staff-managed project include Rwandan women's rights groups, the International Women's Human Rights Clinic, Centre for Constitutional Rights, Working Group on Engendering the Rwanda Tribunal, FIDA-Kenya, McGill Interamicus Working Group on Engendering the Rwanda Tribunal, Human Rights Watch, Human Rights Center of University of California at Berkeley, as well as individuals and other members of the NGO Coalition for Women's Human Rights in Conflict Situations. Additional funds were received from an anonymous donor, the United Methodist Church and the Shaler Adams Foundation.

EVALUATION OF THE MONITORING PROJECT ON GENDER-RELATED CRIMES AT THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL TRIBUNAL FOR RWANDA (ICTR) – \$14,465

An in-depth external evaluation of the Monitoring Project was undertaken to determine future action related to the monitoring of gender-based crimes at the ICTR by the NGO Coalition for Women's Human Rights in Conflict Situations. Following the 1999 annual coordination meeting, Coalition members took stock of the recommendations of the evaluation and then visited Rwanda in April 2000 to engage in a more direct relationship with Rwandan women's rights NGOs working on issues related to gender-based crimes.

STANDARDIZATION OF DATA DOCUMENTATION ON VIOLATIONS OF WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS, AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL (INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT – LONDON), AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL CANADA – \$32,409

The International Secretariat of Amnesty International, Amnesty International Canada and Rights & Democracy collaborated to produce a series of publications that addresses the need for accurate and consistent documentation of violations of women's human rights. The series is targeted at grassroots activists and non-governmental organizations, as well as governmental and United Nations agencies that work to collect and disseminate information on violence against women. The booklets are published in a practical format for field workers. They prepare the reader for fact-finding missions, provide guidelines for the collection and analysis of evidence, and include a checklist for conducting interviews. Written by Agnès Callamard, the manual *A Methodology for Gender-Sensitive Research* and the accompanying booklet *Documenting Human Rights Violations by State Agents: Sexual Violence* were published in November 1999 and are available in English and French. The second booklet of the series, *Documenting Human Rights Violations in Armed Conflict Situations*, is scheduled for publication in the fall of 2000.

WOMEN AND PEACEBUILDING PUBLICATION – \$11,987

Women and Peacebuilding, by Dyan Mazurana and Susan McKay of the University of Wyoming in the United States, was published in Canada by Rights & Democracy in May 1999. Using gender analysis, the authors documented various peacebuilding policies and projects from different organizations, including women's grassroots groups, regional groups, and international organizations such as the United Nations. They offer key lessons for effective peacebuilding as well as additional avenues for further research into women's peacebuilding activities. *Women and Peacebuilding* is available in English and French.

URGENT ACTION TRAVEL FUND PROJECT (UAF) – \$7,636

The UAF, based at the Tides Foundation in San Francisco, provides financial support for immediate or time-limited opportunities to advance the human rights of women. It focuses particularly on the rights of women in areas of armed conflict and in closed environments where women's freedom of movement and access to information are severely restricted by government policy or customary law. This project covered travel by the Women's Rights Coordinator to San Francisco, the Hague Appeal for Peace Conference and other destinations on behalf of the UAF for outreach activities. The Coordinator encouraged activists as well as identified NGOs, churches and other groups to use

the Fund to assist in transferring money swiftly, safely and anonymously to those in need.

WORLD MARCH OF WOMEN 2000, QUÉBEC WOMEN'S FEDERATION – \$5,000

Initiated and coordinated by the Québec Women's Federation, the World March of Women was officially launched on March 8, 2000, and involves over 140 countries with more than 2,800 groups that want governments to seriously tackle the problem of poverty and violence against women. This grant covered part of the organizational costs as well as accommodation for Southern delegates from Asia and the Americas in preparation for the gatherings in Washington and New York in October 2000.

SUPPORT FOR THE WORK OF THE SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, ITS CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES, INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR ETHNIC STUDIES – \$10,000

Rights & Democracy was at the forefront of the NGOs that lobbied to ensure the creation of a mechanism at the United Nations Commission on Human Rights that would address violence against women, its causes and consequences. Since the appointment of Radhika Coomaraswamy, it has organized meetings to address various issues such as work methodology and data documentation. It supports the mandate of the Special Rapporteur through its partnership with the International Centre for Ethnic Studies in Sri Lanka.

CONFERENCE ON ARAB WOMEN, CANADIAN ARAB FEDERATION – \$1,200

A conference entitled "Unveiling our Minds: Challenges to Identity and Female Consciousness among Arab Women in North America" was held in October 1999 at the Université du Québec à Montréal to bring the experiences and voices of Arab women to Canada and to create awareness of the human rights of Arab women internationally. This grant covered the participation costs of one international expert from the Arab world.

GUIDE TO THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS MOVEMENT, HUMAN RIGHTS INTERNET – \$4,000

In anticipation of the five-year review of the Beijing Conference, this grant to Human Rights Internet enabled the publication of a guide to the international women's human rights movement from 1995 to 2000. The guide profiles organizations and networks working on women's human rights and lists resources and training programmes for women's rights advocates. The Coordinator of the Women's Rights Programme is a member of the International Advisory Committee that reviewed the content and structure of the guide.

BRINGING HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AGAINST WOMEN TO THE ATTENTION OF THE UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE (UNHRC), EQUALITY NOW – \$40,000

Through this grant project, Rights & Democracy works with women's rights groups in countries that are up for review by the UN Human Rights Committee (UNHRC). Its partner, Equality Now, brings women's rights issues to the attention of UNHRC members and helps familiarize NGOs in the countries under review with the practices and procedures of the UNHRC as well as the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Local NGOs can then make better use of international mechanisms in their work and present alternative reports to the UNHRC.

SUPPORT FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS ACTIVISTS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE HAGUE APPEAL FOR PEACE CONFERENCE IN THE NETHERLANDS, INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW GROUP – \$1,015

This grant enabled a women's rights activist from Pakistan to participate in the Hague Appeal for Peace Conference in the Netherlands from May 11 to 15, 1999. The Conference was part of a campaign to de-legitimize armed conflict and create a culture of peace for the 21st century.

WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS NET – \$2,398

The main objective of this grant to Women's Human Rights Net is to create an international Web-based information system for women's rights activists. The Web site includes important resources in the areas of leadership development, institution building, UN lobbying, human rights fact-finding, fundraising, as well as information and communication technology. Access to information technology by women's human rights groups is crucial to systematic documentation of women's rights violations and contributes to the sharing of information and joint action on women's rights.

CHANGING OUR WORLD: A GUIDE FOR SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ACTIVISM,

WOMEN LIVING UNDER MUSLIM LAWS (WLUML) – \$5,675

Changing our World was published by WLUML in response to a request from women's groups and NGOs seeking international support. The guide provides direction in writing alerts and support letters and will help increase interest in documenting violations of women's human rights.

WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION: ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, SISTERHOOD IS GLOBAL INSTITUTE – \$10,000

This grant helped Sisterhood is Global Institute to develop a manual for training activists in Muslim societies to mobilize women to eliminate violence against women. The manual, entitled *Safe and Secure: Eliminating Violence Against Women and Girls in*

Muslim Societies, was tested in workshops in Egypt, Jordan, and Lebanon. It was deemed an effective tool for deepening understanding of gender-based violence in Muslim societies. It has been published in English, Arabic, Farsi and Russian.

GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP IN WOMEN'S RIGHTS UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO – \$7,000

This grant supported the creation of a graduate scholarship in women's rights at the University of Toronto, to be awarded to students pursuing a Master of Law or Doctorate in Juridical Science within the Faculty of Law's Graduate Programme. The scholarship is designed to permit law graduates from developing countries who have an interest in the human rights of women to undertake advanced research and study in law.

WOMEN LIVING UNDER MUSLIM LAWS (WLUML) – \$15,000

This grant represents institutional support to WLUML's International Coordination Office in Grabels, France for programme activities such as networking, documentation, publications and operating costs. WLUML is a critical force in organizing and networking in the field of women's human rights in Muslim societies and communities. It gains international support quickly and effectively through its appeals and alerts on individual human rights cases. It documents how secular, religious and customary laws and practices are applied to and affect women.

WOMEN FOR WOMEN IN AFGHANISTAN – \$10,000

This grant provided financial support to this Canadian solidarity group, which supports the needs of women in Afghanistan and raises awareness of their situation. Women for Women in Afghanistan supports projects in Afghanistan in partnership with selected Afghan non-profit organizations and individuals with the shared goal of improving the welfare of Afghan women.

globalization and human rights

Rights & Democracy works to promote respect for human rights in international trade agreements. It advocates its position both regionally (Free Trade in the Americas Agreement [FTAA] and the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation [APEC]) and multilaterally (World Trade Organization [WTO]). It works with civil society groups, undertakes policy research, and participates in meetings between decision-makers and non-governmental organizations working on trade and investment-related issues.

In the past fiscal year, the Globalization Programme concentrated on three areas: trade and investment in Asia, trade and investment in Latin America and negotiations around the WTO. It implemented 12 projects (3 staff-managed and 9 grants) for a total of \$258,538.

CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM ON FREE TRADE IN THE AMERICAS – \$47,025

The Hemispheric Social Alliance (HSA)—a network of civil society groups from the Americas established at the People's Summit in Santiago, Chile in 1998—organized a Civil Society Forum in Toronto. The Forum was held parallel to the November 1999 Americas Trade Ministerial Meeting. Rights & Democracy's financial support helped establish the Forum secretariat and facilitated the participation of delegates from NGOs in developing countries. This project highlighted the human rights issues related to globalization in Latin America and the importance of including civil society voices in the formulation of trade agreements. The project also included co-sponsorship of a "No Sweat Fashion Show" with the Maquila Solidarity Network and the Students Against Sweatshops Canada, highlighting the violations of rights of female maquila workers in Central America and Mexico.

TRADE POLICY – \$53,403

This staff-managed advocacy project supported Canadian NGO coalitions engaged in consultative processes with the government around issues related to international trade and investment. The objective of this initiative was to encourage collaboration between interest sectors and regions of Canada in order to better influence the development of government policy. Additionally, the project aimed to strengthen the capacity of Canadian NGOs to conduct research, develop critiques and determine policy alternatives. The project supported NGO coalitions working on issues respecting the Free Trade in the Americas Agreement, on World Trade Organization policy research, reform of the Export Development Corporation, and promotion of codes of conduct by providing small grants and in-kind services to Common Frontiers (Toronto), the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (Ottawa), the Halifax Initiative (Ottawa) and the Maquila Solidarity Network (Toronto).

HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION (WTO) – \$61,110

Rights & Democracy produced a working paper examining the relationship between the two legal regimes governing trade and human rights. The paper, entitled *Protecting Human Rights in a Global Economy: Challenges for the WTO*, served as the basis of discussions at a workshop held during the WTO meeting in Seattle in December 1999. Written by two international experts, Robert Howse (trade law) of the University of Michigan and Makau wa Mutua (human rights law) of the State University of New York at Buffalo, the paper identifies areas where the WTO has the ability to take human rights into account. The final paper was presented in Geneva at the end of April 2000.

FACTOR X/CASA DE LA MUJER – \$5,000

Factor X and Casa de la Mujer are NGOs that support women workers' rights in Mexican maquilas. They have played a central role in coordinating the Maquila Workers' Network and organizing five previous workshops for the training of Latin American women working in free trade zones. This project supported the Second National Workshop for Mexican Maquila Workers. Numerous Mexican labour, human rights and women's rights groups, as well as maquila workers, attended the August 1999 workshop to help promote the protection of women's rights in the context of trade liberalization, strengthen the network and build links to international movements.

ASIA MONITOR RESOURCE CENTER (AMRC) – \$15,000

AMRC is an NGO based in Hong Kong, which has supported independent trade unions, labour groups and NGOs in Asia for the past 20 years. It provides information, research, publishing, training and other related services to encourage workers' empowerment and gender consciousness. This grant helped AMRC in its comparative labour law project, studies on transnational corporations and a labour rights project in China.

ASIA PACIFIC RESEARCH NETWORK (APRN) – \$10,000

This grant provided institutional support to the APRN, a regional organization that researches economic globalization and workers' issues, including the human rights and social dimensions of trade liberalization in Asia. APRN is working to increase its membership throughout Asia, improve its research and documentation methods, share information internationally, and develop its capacity to analyze emerging issues related to the World Trade Organization, international financial institutions, and APEC. It is currently conducting research into transparency, workers' rights and labour migration, food security, and the impact of GATT on agriculture.

CHINA LABOUR BULLETIN (CLB) – \$12,000

This grant provided institutional support to the *China Labour Bulletin*, which promotes international labour standards inside China. It compiles, documents and publishes information received through contacts in the field on labour rights and the struggle of workers inside China. It makes available uncensored information concerning labour rights for mainland workers through its Web site and weekly radio broadcasts on Radio Free Asia. The CLB also plays an important role in educating the international community on the labour rights situation in China. CLB founder and director, Han Dongfang, is a leading activist in the international labour movement and very influential in Asia. The CLB provides legal aid and education as well as training courses on union rights and organizing.

RED MEXICANA DE ACCIÓN FRENTE AL LIBRE COMERCIO (RMALC) – \$12,000

This grant provided institutional support to RMALC, an umbrella group of Mexican NGOs formed during the negotiation of NAFTA to monitor the social and environmental effects of trade agreements on Mexico. RMALC holds meetings, distributes information, and mobilizes Mexican organizations as well as groups in the US, Canada and Latin America to voice society's concerns about free trade issues. It makes policy recommendations to governments concerning citizen participation, environmental rights, women's issues and economic alternatives.

PLATAFORMA SUDAMERICANA DE DERECHOS HUMANOS, DEMOCRACIA Y DESARROLLO (PSDHDD) – \$15,000

This coalition of NGOs and social movements in Latin America focuses on economic, social, and cultural rights essential to the development of democracy. It works on such issues as migrant workers, displaced peoples, debt relief and indicators for social and economic rights. This grant provided institutional support for PSDHDD's activities to strengthen the ability of civil society to influence multilateral organizations and national development policies.

PESTICIDE ACTION NETWORK ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (PAN-AP) – \$10,000

PAN-AP is one of the five regional centres of PAN International—a global coalition of citizen's groups and individuals working to promote sustainable agriculture and the responsible use of pesticides. This grant supported the establishment of a secretariat and travel fund for a conference to address the effects of globalization on women's lives, with a focus on women's contribution to food security. The conference will look at food security issues through the lens of the APEC food-security system.

CENTRAL AMERICAN WOMEN'S MAQUILA NETWORK – \$10,000

This network of women's groups promotes and defends the rights of women who work in Central American maquiladoras. It works to empower and support workers in the region, monitor companies and maquilas and plays a significant role in defining both corporate and government policy at the national and regional levels. This grant will help the Network develop criteria for effective codes of conduct, hold training courses for women workers, and distribute manuals to inform workers of their rights.

INTERNATIONAL NGO COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN TRADE AND INVESTMENT – \$8,000

This coalition of human rights NGOs from Asia, Latin America, Africa, Europe and North America was established in the spring of 1998 to respond to emerging issues respecting globalization. It promotes human rights in the context of the trade debate and lobbies at the UN level in an effort to develop supportive positions, specifically with respect to the impact of trade on economic, social and cultural rights. The committee publishes its research and conducts seminars. The grant provided institutional support to this coalition.

indigenous peoples' rights

Rights & Democracy works with national and international indigenous groups to promote the international recognition of the rights of indigenous peoples. It focuses on improving dialogue between governments and indigenous peoples, participation in the democratic process, particularly of indigenous women, and access of indigenous groups in the Americas to international organizations such as the United Nations and the Organization of American States. It is active in the UN's working group on the draft declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples and encourages the Canadian government to adopt a more flexible and open position regarding the text of the declaration.

During the past fiscal year, the Indigenous Peoples' Rights Programme worked to strengthen the institutional capacity of the Indigenous Women of the Americas network and promote access of indigenous peoples to the debates at the Organization of American States on the draft declaration on indigenous peoples, and supported a workshop on commercialization and intellectual property rights for indigenous women to protect their art designs. It implemented 9 projects (4 staff-managed and 5 grants) for a total of \$199,560.

INDIGENOUS WOMEN OF THE AMERICAS (IWA) – \$87,656

Since 1994, Rights & Democracy has been supporting indigenous women in their efforts to establish links throughout North, Central and South America. This network of 15 countries in the Americas held its third continental meeting in Panama last March. Through this staff-managed project, Rights & Democracy worked with CUSO and the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund to strengthen the institutional capacity of the IWA. It supported the establishment of a liaison office in Panama and an intern provided translation services in the Panama office. Rights & Democracy also supported the preparation of educational materials and training workshops.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS WORKSHOP – \$23,215

As part of the Indigenous Women of the Americas project, Rights & Democracy supported a workshop on commercialization and intellectual property rights. Approximately 70 indigenous women from 15 countries met in Ottawa in April 1999 to discuss alternatives to the current protection system, which has proven to be inadequate to properly protect their art designs. In conjunction with the Indigenous Women's Commercialization and Intellectual Property Commission (Canada, Panama, Peru), Rights & Democracy is currently developing a sample contract and ethical guidelines for commercial transactions. The World Intellectual Property Organization is also cooperating on this initiative.

SUPPORT FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' PARTICIPATION AT THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES (OAS) – \$30,797

Rights & Democracy has long supported the participation of indigenous peoples in the debates surrounding

the UN draft declaration and the OAS draft declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples. In December 1998, Rights & Democracy supported the establishment of a committee of indigenous experts to intervene at the Permanent Council of the OAS on the draft declaration. This past year, the committee was granted access to the official debates at the OAS respecting the draft declaration. This staff-managed project will help ensure the adequate representation and participation of indigenous peoples from the Americas in the working group meetings of the OAS on the draft declaration.

ILO CONVENTION 169 – \$7,892

Convention 169 of the International Labour Organization (ILO) is the only binding document on the recognition of indigenous peoples' rights. It has been ratified by ten countries in Latin America. Rights & Democracy currently supports an intern at the ILO who is conducting research on more effective ways for indigenous peoples to monitor the implementation of the Convention in their respective countries, without necessarily having to go through a lengthy complaint process.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' CENTRE FOR DOCUMENTATION, RESEARCH AND INFORMATION (doCip) – \$10,000

Created in 1978 to respond to the needs of indigenous representatives in Geneva, doCip provides access to important documents for the defence of indigenous peoples at the international level, particularly at the United Nations, various technical services, including translation, and a secretariat. This grant provided institutional support to help doCip maintain its Web site, develop its CD-ROM project and update its data bank.

COORDINADORA NACIONAL DE MUJERES INDÍGENAS DE MÉXICO – \$6,000

Made up of 30 indigenous peoples groups from different regions in Mexico, the Coordinadora works to educate and promote indigenous women's rights. For the first time, two representatives of the Coordinadora discussed discrimination against indigenous peoples and, specifically, systematic human rights violations against indigenous women at the United Nations. Following this meeting, the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mary Robinson, confirmed that she would go to Mexico and address the situation of indigenous women's human rights. This grant facilitated preparations for a meeting between the High Commissioner and indigenous women in Mexico who presented a report on cases of systematic violations of women's rights.

INSTITUTO PARA EL DESARROLLO DE LA COMARCA KUNA YALA (IDIKY) OF PANAMA – \$5,000

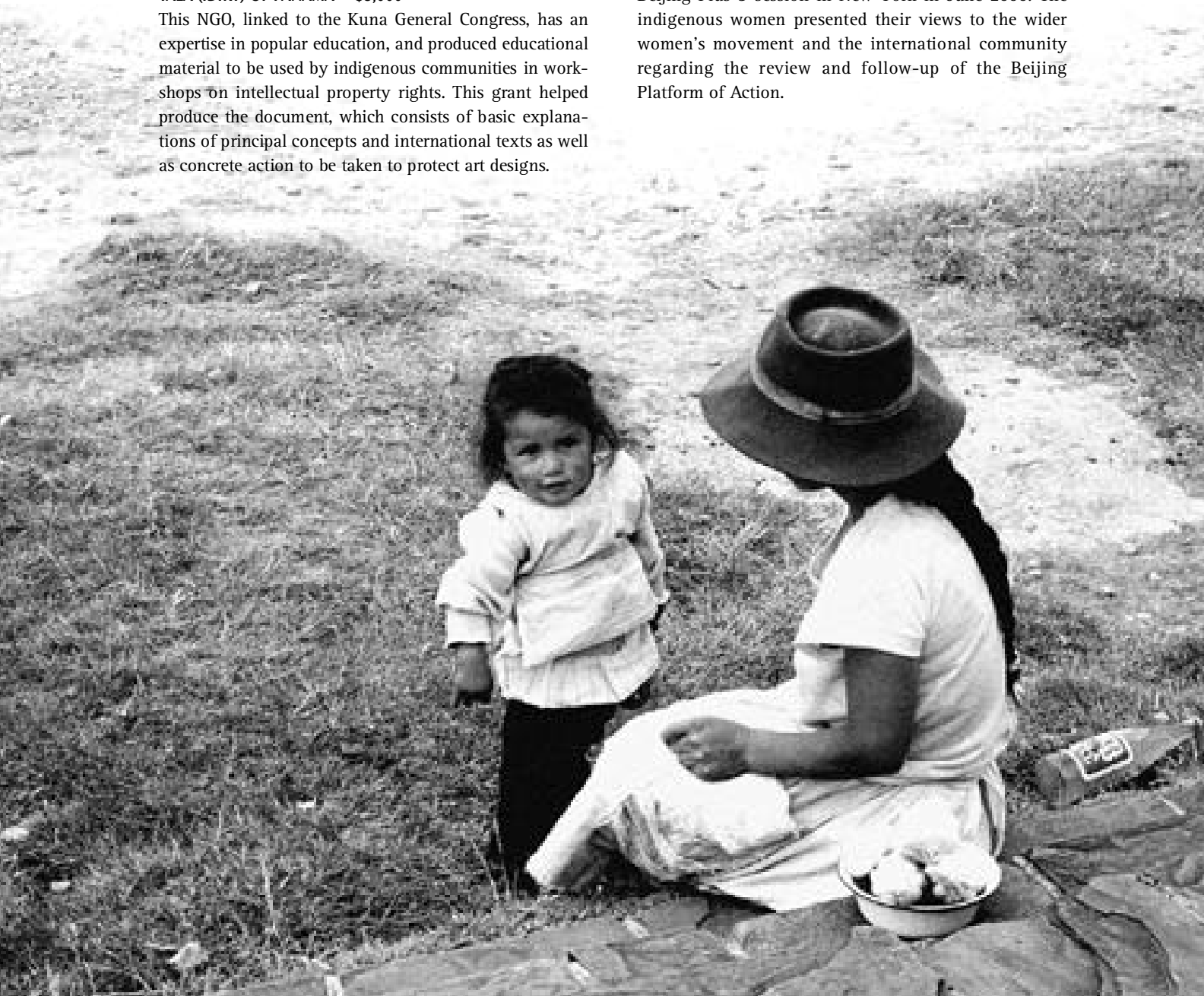
This NGO, linked to the Kuna General Congress, has an expertise in popular education, and produced educational material to be used by indigenous communities in workshops on intellectual property rights. This grant helped produce the document, which consists of basic explanations of principal concepts and international texts as well as concrete action to be taken to protect art designs.

CENTRO DE CULTURAS INDIAS (CHIRAPAQ) – \$23,000

Chirapaq is an indigenous organization created in March 1986 to strengthen the development and cultural identity of indigenous peoples in Peru. This grant provided institutional support to Chirapaq to help them train indigenous women leaders in human rights, encourage their participation in the democratic process, and foster communication and the sharing of expertise between indigenous leaders from the Andes and the Amazon.

ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS – \$6,000

The Assembly of First Nations represents the different visions of the first nations of Canada. It was chosen by indigenous women leaders from Asia, Africa and the Americas to organize a World Forum for Indigenous Women prior to the Beijing Plus 5 special session of the United Nations. This grant enabled indigenous women from South and Central America to participate in the Beijing Plus 5 session in New York in June 2000. The indigenous women presented their views to the wider women's movement and the international community regarding the review and follow-up of the Beijing Platform of Action.



afica

During the past year, Rights & Democracy worked in cooperation with its partners to promote democracy and justice in Africa's Great Lakes Region, particularly in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Burundi and Rwanda, as well as in Kenya, Togo and Nigeria. It promoted the participation of civil society organizations in the democratic process, in addition to strengthening opportunities for peace and democratic development in the DRC.

The Africa Programme carried out 16 projects this past year (2 staff-managed and 14 grants) for a total of \$344,989.



INDEPENDENT COMMISSION ON NATIONAL DIALOGUE IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO (DRC) – \$73,752

Following the Montréal Conference sponsored by Rights & Democracy in January 1999, Rights & Democracy has been working to implement the recommendations of the Montréal Plan of Action. It initiated an independent commission to provide political, technical and financial support to the democratic process and a sustainable peace in the DRC. Following the signing of the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement in the summer of 1999, the Commission worked to bring together the government of Kinshasa, members of the opposition, civil society and rebel forces and to promote the participation of civil society in the democratic process.

CONSULTATIVE GROUP ON THE AFRICAN GREAT LAKES REGION – \$2,803

The consultative group provides an opportunity for NGOs and government representatives to have frank and informal discussions on Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda. Participants share expertise and analyze the key forces in the rapidly changing social and political lives of these countries. It met twice this past year.

RADIO KUDIRAT NIGERIA (RKN) – \$10,000

Established by the Nigerian pro-democracy movement outside Nigeria during the Abacha regime, RKN was the voice of the democracy movement, providing information and exposing human rights violations to Nigerians all across the nation. Its objectives continue to be strengthening democracy and providing alternative information and perspectives to the Nigerian public. It broadcasts in fourteen different languages, including Hausa, Yoruba and Igbo. This grant provides institutional support to RKN.

CENTRE FOR DEMOCRACY AND DEVELOPMENT – \$10,000

Established in 1997, the Centre for Democracy and Development (CDD) is an academic research and training NGO working to develop policy on questions of democratic development and peacebuilding in West Africa, particularly Nigeria. This grant helped support the training of activists through seminars on coalition building, political party strengthening, and strategic planning for civil society groups. CDD's aim is to effectively promote democratic reform through the development of a resource for alternative ideas and strategies in society.

ENHANCING WOMEN'S POLITICAL PARTICIPATION IN THE DEMOCRATIZATION OF GOVERNANCE IN NIGERIA CIVIL LIBERTIES ORGANIZATION (CLO) – \$7,500

CLO is a well-known human rights group that has accomplished important work in the areas of human

rights education, empowerment, litigation, networking and publishing. Through its Women's Rights Project, the CLO works to raise the level of consciousness and respect for the human rights of women and to promote women's active participation in the democratic process under way in Nigeria. This grant provided support to the CLO for this project.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN: EMPOWERMENT AND CAMPAIGN CIVIL LIBERTIES ORGANIZATION (CLO) – \$7,500

This grant provided support to the Women's Rights Project (WRP) of the CLO for its campaign on violence against women. The WRP has set up a complaint desk where victims of violence feel free to report violations and to receive counselling. Four workshops were organized across Nigeria on the issue of gender-based violence. A live phone-in programme, where victims of violence share their experiences, is also scheduled to begin on the Ray Power Radio Station.

LEGAL ASSISTANCE NETWORK

CIVIL LIBERTIES ORGANIZATION (CLO) – \$7,500

The Legal Assistance Network (LAN) is an initiative of the Legal Directorate of the CLO. It is a professional outreach tool for lawyers in Nigeria. This grant supported the LAN project in broadening the constituency and community of human rights advocates in Nigeria through workshops, legal aid and raising the consciousness of the Bench and the Bar in Nigeria on human rights issues and public interest law.

CONSEIL NATIONAL DES ONG

DE DÉVELOPPEMENT DU CONGO – \$5,000

The National Council for Development NGOs in the Congo was created to open a forum for exchange and cooperation on development issues. This grant supported the August 6, 1999, March for Peace, which mobilized civil society in the Congo to call for a ceasefire, an end to the violence and the beginning of national reconciliation.

GERDDES-AFRIQUE – \$35,000

Based in Cotonou, Benin, GERDDES is present in over 32 African countries and works to promote and monitor democracy in order to improve the continent's economic and social development. The Réseau africain non gouvernemental d'alerte préventive des conflits, or RANGAPC, is an institution of GERDDES created to develop African expertise in the mediation and prevention of social and political conflict. This grant provides institutional support to the RANGAPC Network.

INTER-CHURCH COALITION ON AFRICA (ICCAF) – \$12,934

The ICCAF was established by Canadian churches in 1982 for social and economic justice and human rights in Africa. This grant supported ICCAF in its work to provide its partners in Africa with human rights materials so it can more effectively influence their respective governments. ICCAF held three workshops and published a series of reports on economic, social and cultural rights in southern Africa, women and economic rights in Africa, and the situation of human rights in Kenya, Nigeria and Sudan. It also held meetings with Canadian government officials and sponsored the participation of two women from Africa at the UN Commission on Human Rights.

GROUPE DE RÉFLEXION ET D'ACTION FEMME, DÉMOCRATIE ET DÉVELOPPEMENT (GF2D), TOGO – \$20,000

GF2D is an association of approximately 30 women from diverse professions that promotes the active participation of women in public affairs and the political arena. They are currently working to strengthen the capacity of women to play an active and equal role in village development committees. This grant provided support to GF2D's campaign, including the production of popular education material, training workshops and follow-up activities.

UNION NATIONALE DES SYNDICATS INDÉPENDANTS DU TOGO (UNSI) – \$23,000

UNSI brings together 17 unions working in the public and private sectors, particularly in education, industry, textile and commerce. It works to mobilize the union movement with a view to strengthening civil society's role in Togolese society and in the democratic process.

UNION INTERAFRICAINNE DES DROITS DE L'HOMME (UIDH) BURKINA FASO – \$29,000

This grant represents institutional support to the UIDH, a well-known pan-African NGO made up of 18 national human rights groups that defend human and peoples' rights across the continent. It has been active in several countries on issues such as land mines, election monitoring, freedom of the press, conflict prevention and mediation, and the strengthening of civil society.

CENTRE FOR GOVERNANCE AND DEVELOPMENT (CGD) KENYA – \$55,000

CGD is a non-partisan initiative of the Kenyan human rights and pro-democracy community to mobilize resources for the institutionalization of democracy, human rights and good governance. CGD works to strengthen Parliament through regional conferences and workshops, a resource centre, civic education and the promotion of women's participation in all aspects of public life.

AFRICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS – \$30,000

The African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights is the Organization of African Unity's institution charged with promoting and protecting human and peoples' rights in Africa. It undertakes research, organizes seminars and visits various African nations with recommendations on the protection and promotion of human rights. It also receives and examines complaints of violations and presents reports to the Conference of Heads of States. This grant provided support to the Special Rapporteur on Women's Rights in Africa who works with national NGOs, gathering data on the situation of women in various countries and intervening in specific cases, particularly with regard to succession rights and female genital mutilation.

KENYA HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION – \$16,000

The Kenya Human Rights Commission is an independent advocacy group founded in 1992 to protect and promote the respect of fundamental human rights as stipulated in the Kenyan Constitution and international covenants. It produces research reports on human rights violations in Kenya. This grant helped in the preparations for a conference in May 2000, at which approximately 40 leaders of civil society from East, Central and Southern Africa came together to develop an African civil society strategy in support of the implementation of the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement and the peace process in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

americas

In cooperation with its partners, Rights & Democracy promotes human rights and democratic development in the Americas, by supporting civil society (particularly women and indigenous peoples groups), strengthening democratic institutions such as the judiciary, and fostering debate on human rights and democratic issues.

During the past fiscal year, the Americas Programme worked primarily on Guatemala, Haiti, Mexico and Peru. It lobbied the Canadian government, embassies and other governments to denounce Peru's withdrawal from the Inter-American Court and organized the visit of the Coordinadora Nacional de Derechos Humanos del Perú to Ottawa. It managed a special fund for peacebuilding in Guatemala, financed by the Canadian International Development Agency, and also organized observation missions to Haiti and Peru. The Consultative Groups on Peru, Guatemala and Mexico continued throughout the year.

This past fiscal year, the Americas programme implemented 24 projects (4 staff-managed and 20 grants) as well as the Fund to Support Civil Society Policy Research for the Implementation of the Guatemala Peace Accords, for a total of \$432,897.



ELECTION OBSERVATION MISSION TO HAITI – \$5,499

An NGO delegation from Québec travelled to Haiti in March 2000 to monitor the legislative elections. Although the elections were rescheduled for a later date, the delegation decided to continue its mission with the objective of strengthening the democratic process. This grant covered the costs of Jacques Champagne, who has extensive experience in international development, to participate in the mission as the representative of Rights & Democracy. The mission released a report calling for a new date for the elections and an end to the prevailing atmosphere of violence in Haiti.

ELECTION OBSERVATION MISSION TO PERU – \$4,646

Stéphanie Rousseau represented Rights & Democracy on an observation mission with the Fédération internationale des droits de l'homme (FIDH), covering the periods before, during and after Peru's presidential and congressional elections. Following irregularities and allegations of fraud and intimidation, the elections went to a second round. The mission released a report calling on the international community to monitor development assistance channelled through Peruvian government institutions, which have been accused of vote-buying and misuse of funds to support President Alberto Fujimori's campaign against Alejandro Toledo, an economist who is popular for his identification with Peru's indigenous peoples.

CONSULTATIVE GROUPS ON GUATEMALA, PERU AND MEXICO – \$20,884

Quarterly meetings of the Guatemala, Peru and Mexico Consultative Groups continued this past year, bringing together representatives of the Canadian government and non-governmental organizations to exchange information and improve dialogue on issues of human rights, democracy, commerce and foreign policy.

PRIMATE'S WORLD RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT FUND ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA – \$34,650

Eleanor Douglas of the Primate's Fund was hired by Rights & Democracy to help identify ways for Canadians to contribute to a dialogue of peace in Colombia. She travelled to Colombia and met with Canadian NGOs and government representatives interested in promoting peace in Colombia. Rights & Democracy will follow up on the recommendations of her report to be presented in Montréal in the next fiscal year.

FUND TO SUPPORT CIVIL SOCIETY POLICY RESEARCH FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GUATEMALAN PEACE ACCORDS – \$90,544

Rights & Democracy managed a special fund for Public Policy Research in Guatemala, which is financed by the

Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). The objective was to strengthen the ability of civil society organizations to participate in the implementation of the Guatemalan Peace Accords. The fund was set up in May 1998 with a total of \$400,000 over 18 months and coordinated by David Gairdner in Guatemala. Projects within this fund supported the efforts of civil society organizations to conduct research and develop public policy proposals related to the peace process. They helped support the emergence of a new and democratic dynamic in the relationship between the Guatemalan State and civil society. Priority was given to the areas of land and education reforms, political participation as well as enhancing the role of women in society. Beneficiaries of the grants in this fiscal year include the Centro de Investigación y Educación Popular (CIEP), National Permanent Commission on the Land Rights of Indigenous Peoples of the Coordinating Forum for Indigenous Peoples of Guatemala (COPMAGUA), Sector Mujeres de la Asamblea de la Sociedad Civil. The final report to CIDA will be presented early in 2001.

ASAMBLEA DE LA SOCIEDAD CIVIL (ASC) GUATEMALA – \$5,000

Through the organization of a national summit, the ASC consolidated the efforts of civil society in urging all political parties to make the implementation of the Guatemala Peace Accords a priority, rather than just an electoral promise. A platform for action was presented to political leaders in October 1999 prior to the elections held in November.

CONSEJO DE ORGANIZACIONES MAYAS DE GUATEMALA (COMG), GUATEMALA – \$18,000

COMG is a coalition of 14 groups that work to promote the development of the Mayan people. COMG was the first indigenous organization to publish a document defining the rights of indigenous peoples. This grant is part of a two-year initiative that provided support to the COMG for its project on implementation of ILO Convention 169 and the Guatemala Peace Accords that relate to indigenous peoples' rights.

COORDINADORA DE ORGANIZACIONES DEL PUEBLO MAYA DE GUATEMALA (COPMAGUA), GUATEMALA – \$20,000

COPMAGUA is a coalition of 856 indigenous organizations in Guatemala that was mandated by the Peace Accords to coordinate the participation of indigenous peoples in the implementation of the Accords. Its Land Commission (Comisión nacional permanente de tierras [CNPT]) will develop a bill for agrarian and environmental legislation, which will focus on land rights, legal protection and the promotion of sustainable rural development.

GRUPO DE MUJERES MAYAS KAQLA, GUATEMALA – \$20,000

Formed in 1996 and made up of diverse ethnic women's groups, Kaqla works to promote a better understanding of Mayan women's situation and to strengthen the participation of women in society and in the political life of Guatemala through leadership training. This grant provides institutional support to Kaqla.

OFICINA DE DERECHOS HUMANOS, GUATEMALA – \$2,155

The Catholic Bishops Conference of Guatemala and the Human Rights Office of the Archdiocese of Guatemala sponsored three days of events to commemorate the April 24, 1998, murder of Mgr. Juan José Gerardi. The murder remains unresolved and is symbolic of the fragility of the peace process and the ineffectiveness of the judicial system. This grant helped produce education and communication materials in support of the events.

KAY FANM, HAITI – \$20,000

This Haitian women's rights NGO was founded in 1985. It focuses much of its work on assistance to women who have been victims of violence, providing shelter as well as legal and medical assistance. It also increases public awareness of women's rights and lobbies for laws to curb violence against women. This grant provided institutional support to Kay Fanm.

INSTITUT CULTUREL KARL LÉVESQUE (ICKL), HAITI – \$5,000

The ICKL is a research and education centre, which seeks to improve cooperation between democratic institutions and popular movements in Haiti. This grant enabled ICKL to promote the role of civil society in Haiti, particularly in the electoral process.

PLATEFORME DES ORGANISATIONS HAÏTIENNES DES DROITS DE L'HOMME, HAITI – \$25,000

This network of nine NGOs promotes the restoration of democracy and respect for human rights in Haiti. Created in 1991 following the military coup, this group continues to be a credible watchdog and a key representative of civil society in Haiti. This grant helped establish a network of human rights observers to cover the elections across the nation.

ALFORJA, MEXICO – \$1,519

ALFORJA is a network of popular education centres working to strengthen civil society participation in democratic development. This grant supported a workshop that enabled groups in Mexico and Central America to exchange information and develop common strategies to influence public policy.

ALIANZA CÍVICA, MEXICO – \$25,000

This grant represents institutional support to this NGO, which works to promote free and fair elections. In

preparation for the July 2000 elections, AC helped mobilize citizens' groups to document and denounce electoral abuses and through its networks of teachers, journalists, social workers and artists helped increase public participation in the electoral process in Mexico.

COORDINADORA NACIONAL DE MUJERES INDÍGENAS, MEXICO – \$15,000

This national network promotes the rights of indigenous women in Mexico. It holds regional and national workshops on human rights, violence against women, and leadership skills to help end their marginalization and encourage their participation in the democratic process. It also documents and denounces specific cases of human rights abuses against indigenous women.

RED NACIONAL DE ORGANISMOS CIVILES DE DERECHOS HUMANOS "TODOS LOS DERECHOS PARA TODOS" MEXICO – \$15,000

This network of 49 NGOs defends and promotes human rights in Mexico at the national and international levels. This grant provided institutional support to strengthen the coordinating secretariat, particularly its external and internal communication programmes, fundraising campaigns, documentation and training.

CONFERENCIA PERMANENTE DE PUEBLOS INDÍGENAS DEL PERÚ (COPPIP), PERU – \$25,000

This coalition of indigenous organizations from the forest, the coast, and the sierra works to gain recognition from the state and to develop legislation to protect their culture. This grant provided institutional support for the Conferencia to help strengthen communication among organizations across the country and to promote indigenous leadership.

COORDINADORA NACIONAL DE LOS DERECHOS HUMANOS DEL PERÚ (CNDDHH), PERU – \$10,000

Made up of 50 NGOs, the CNDDHH was created in 1985 and works to promote human rights and public education. It is currently working on a campaign to convince Peru to honour its international obligations. In July 1999, Peru withdrew from the Inter-American Court on Human Rights after it called for a retrial in civil court of four Chileans convicted of terrorism by a military court. This grant supported the advocacy work of the CNDDHH.

MESA NACIONAL SOBRE DESPLAZAMIENTO Y AFECTADOS POR VIOLENCIA POLÍTICA (MENADES), PERU – \$20,000

MENADES addresses the situation of displaced peoples and other victims of political violence. It facilitates dialogue among NGOs and between civil society and local governments. It lobbies and develops proposals for legislation to restore democratic institutions in zones affected by civil war.

**CENTRE FOR JUSTICE AND
INTERNATIONAL LAW (CEJIL) – \$5,000**

This coalition of ten human rights organizations in the Americas works to ensure the implementation of international human rights norms at the domestic level and is the first NGO to offer access to the inter-American human rights system. It supports human rights victims and local NGOs and works to hold governments responsible for violations of their international obligations. CEJIL also passes on its expertise and experience in litigating cases before the system to as many human rights workers as possible.

**COMITÉ LATINO AMERICANO Y DEL CARIBE PARA LA
DEFENSA DE LOS DERECHOS DE LA MUJER
(CLADEM) – \$20,000**

This Latin American women's rights network works to incorporate a gender perspective into the theory and practice of human rights and monitors certain countries' adherence to international law, specifically the Convention for the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). This grant provided institutional support for CLADEM, a long-term partner of Rights & Democracy.

**CANADIAN COUNCIL FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION
AMERICAS POLICY GROUP (APG) – \$5,000**

The CCIC assembles NGOs, churches, academics, trade unions and other solidarity groups working in the Americas to discuss issues of development and social justice in the region through the Americas Policy Group (APG). The APG improves the impact of these groups through better communication, concerted action in lobbying the government and the establishment of priorities and strategies for work in the region. Rights & Democracy is an active member of the APG.

**INTER-CHURCH COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN LATIN
AMERICA (ICCHRLA) – \$20,000**

ICCHRLA is a coalition of Canadian churches working on social justice issues throughout Mexico, Central and South America. ICCHRLA worked with Rights & Democracy and CEJIL in preparing a public forum on reforms to the inter-American system of human rights protection and promotion prior to the General Assembly of the OAS in June 2000, in Windsor, Canada.

asia

Rights & Democracy works in cooperation with its partners to promote human rights and democratic development in the Asia region. During the past fiscal year, it initiated and supported projects on women's rights, the pro-democracy movement in Burma, the Asian regional campaign against the abusive use of national security laws, the strengthening of civil society in Indonesia, and workers' rights—particularly freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining. It worked primarily in Burma, Indonesia, Pakistan and Thailand. The Asia Programme carried out 19 projects (3 staff-managed and 16 grants) for a total of \$354,101.



**ALTERNATIVE ASEAN NETWORK
ON BURMA (ALTSEAN) – \$10,000**

ALTSEAN is a network of activists, NGOs, academics and politicians from Southeast Asia that supports human rights, democracy and peace in Burma. It helps ASEAN NGOs better lobby their respective governments to reconsider their support of the military rulers in Burma. ALTSEAN enables human rights activists to meet and plan activities together; builds the capacity of Burmese and non-Burmese women for networking and advocacy; supports the lobbying efforts of its members in ASEAN countries; and increases the capacity of ASEAN media and activists to advocate for the cause of Burma. This grant provided institutional support for ALTSEAN.

ASIA PACIFIC FACILITATING TEAM – \$20,500

The Asia Pacific Facilitating Team coordinates human rights NGOs in the Asia Pacific. This grant helped the Facilitating Team to prepare for its second Asia Pacific Human Rights NGOs Congress in October 2000 in Indonesia. A broad range of representatives of the human rights movement will discuss the indivisibility of human rights, engendering human rights and preparations for the World Conference on Racism.

ASSOCIATES TO DEVELOP

A DEMOCRATIC BURMA (ADDB) – \$5,000

With over 40 members in 12 countries, ADDB provides information about events affecting Burma to governments, scholars, policy makers, the media, NGOs and members of the Burmese community in exile to increase international pressure for democracy and human rights in Burma. ADDB also publishes *Burma Alert*, a widely respected monthly newsletter concerning political and economic trends in Burma and in the international community. This grant supports the ADDB's conflict resolution initiative, which explores alternatives for breaking the political deadlock in Burma.

THE BURMA FUND – \$26,000

The Burma Fund is an NGO dedicated to strengthening Burma's democracy movement. This grant will help the Fund to set up effective communication links between democratic organizations working on Burma.

BURMA ISSUES – \$16,000

Burma Issues is a Bangkok-based NGO working to restore democracy in Burma and which has offices on both sides (if security permits) of the Thai-Burma border. Its activities respond both to the needs of activists for training and solidarity and to the need of the international community for accurate information concerning ongoing human rights violations inside Burma. This grant represents institutional support to strengthen Burma Issues' information and research capacities.

BURMESE WOMEN UNION (BWU) – \$10,000

The BWU, founded by female students who fled to the Thai-Burma border in 1988, mobilizes women of Burma, both on the border and internationally. It works with women's groups in various countries, organizes training programs and workshops to increase women's understanding of human rights and democracy and empowers women to take on decision-making positions within their communities. This grant represents institutional support for BWU.

BURMA DONORS MEETING

BURMA INFORMATION GROUP – \$2,413

This staff-managed project enabled a representative of the Burma Information Group to attend the June 1999 Burma Donors Meeting. Held each year, the meeting provides information on the current situation of Burma and helps establish the work priorities for pro-democracy groups. The Burma Information Group provides information on human rights violations inside Burma and publishes the monthly magazine *Irrawaddy*.

CANADIAN FRIENDS OF BURMA (CFOB) – \$15,000

CFOB, the best Canadian source on Burma, was established in 1990 to promote public awareness about Burma. It channels humanitarian assistance to the peoples of Burma and works to influence Canada's foreign policy. CFOB is working to establish a parliamentary group on Burma and continues to increase the momentum of citizen-led sanctions against Canadian and foreign corporate presence in Burma. This grant represents institutional support for the CFOB.

**NATIONAL COALITION GOVERNMENT OF THE UNION
OF BURMA (NCGUB) – \$60,000**

The NCGUB is Burma's government in exile, created in December 1990 after the military regime refused to transfer power to the elected representatives of the Burmese People's Assembly. The NCGUB has been very effective in representing the democratic aspirations of the people of Burma in the international arena. It receives strong political support from the European Parliament, Australia, Canada, Denmark, France, Norway, Sweden, United Kingdom and the United States. This grant represents institutional support for the NCGUB.

**SUPPORT TO THE DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT
IN BURMA – \$14,327**

This year, Rights & Democracy presented its John Humphrey Freedom Award to Dr. Cynthia Maung and political prisoner Min Ko Naing of Burma. To make the most of the visits of Dr. Cynthia Maung and other Burma activists, Rights & Democracy implemented this staff-managed project. This project helped the NCGUB to get the Québec National Assembly to adopt a resolution

supporting the Committee Representing the People's Parliament (CRPP) of Burma, enabled government officials in Ottawa to meet with the prime minister in exile, Dr. Sein Win, and Dr. Cynthia Maung, and initiated a campaign for the liberation of Min Ko Naing through the publication of an advertisement in the *International Herald Tribune* (Asia-Pacific edition) on December 10, 1999.

FORUM ASIA – \$15,000

Forum Asia shares expertise and experience with approximately 25 other human rights organizations in South and Southeast Asia to respond more effectively to human rights violations in the region. It works to strengthen the capacities of local NGOs and activists to protect, promote and defend human rights. It also undertakes specific campaigns on country situations and thematic issues. This grant represents institutional support for Forum Asia.

CANADIANS CONCERNED ABOUT ETHNIC VIOLENCE IN INDONESIA (CCEVI) – \$1,000

This grant helped Indonesian novelist Pramoedya Ananta Toer visit Canada in May 1999 to raise Canadian public awareness on human rights violations and challenges in Indonesia. CCEVI is a coalition of concerned individuals and community groups formed to create public awareness about the current human rights situation in Indonesia.

MUCHTAR PAKPAHAN'S VISIT TO CANADA AND ELECTION MONITORING IN INDONESIA, SBSI – \$3,861

This staff-managed project helped finance the visit to Canada of Mughtar Pakpahan, a political prisoner who was released following an international postcard campaign by Rights & Democracy, the Canadian Labour Congress and Amnesty International. It also enabled Rights & Democracy to participate in the election monitoring process in Indonesia.

TAPOL – \$12,000

This grant represents institutional support for TAPOL, a London-based NGO that campaigns worldwide against human rights abuses committed by the Indonesian government and, particularly, for the release of political prisoners. It is now focusing on addressing Indonesia's weak civil society, powerful military and corrupt legal system.

WORKING WOMEN ORGANIZATION, (WWO) PAKISTAN – \$15,000

The WWO is run entirely by working women (teachers and factory workers) who want to change laws and attitudes in employment practices and support women who have been exploited in the workplace. WWO has targeted women working in industrial enterprises, agriculture, brick kilns and women living in slum areas. This grant enabled the WWO to hire a full-time staff member to help with fund-raising.

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION OF PAKISTAN – \$40,000

The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan monitors human rights violations and seeks redress through public campaigns, lobbying, workshops and fact-finding missions. This project was developed following Rights & Democracy's Democratic Development Study and Workshop in Pakistan. The grant helped set up a meeting of eminent people to report on the problem of religious minorities in South Asia and suggest collective action to address the issue.

COORDINATING COMMITTEE OF HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS OF THAILAND (CCHROT) – \$26,000

The CCHROT is a coalition of seven leading human rights NGOs in Thailand. It pools the resources and experiences of its members working at the grassroots level to promote and protect human rights at the national level. It will continue its campaign for the establishment of a national human rights commission. This project was developed following Rights & Democracy's Democratic Development Study and Workshop in Thailand. The grant represents institutional support for the CCHROT to strengthen democratic institutions.

FRIENDS OF WOMEN FOUNDATION (FOW) – \$40,000

The Friends of Women Foundation (FOW) works to broaden the public awareness of the unfair treatment of women and to ensure their status as equal members of the community. The FOW created GROWNET, which consists of urban and regional networks working to raise the level of involvement of women in decision-making at local levels, change government policy that discriminates against women, and improve their quality of life. This project was initiated following Rights & Democracy's Democratic Development Study and Workshop in Thailand.

SUPPORT FOR THE WORLD MARCH OF WOMEN 2000 ALTERNATIVE ASEAN NETWORK ON BURMA AND THE SLUM WOMEN'S NETWORK DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (SWON) IN THAILAND – \$22,000

This grant provided financial support to two NGOs—ALTSEAN and SWON—to help promote the World March of Women and to ensure that women from Thailand and Burma will be able to participate in the march. The World March hopes to highlight poverty and all forms of violence against women. A basic program of action will be presented to the United Nations on October 17, 2000.

canada

Rights & Democracy supports Canadian NGOs and networks with an international and regional mandate to strengthen their capacity to establish or improve the quality of international human rights and democratic development educational programmes. Beneficiaries of grants include the Network on International Human Rights, Ligue des droits et libertés, Human Rights Internet, Canadian Lawyers Association for International Human Rights (CLAIHR), United Nations Association in Canada, B'nai Brith Canada, Canada-Asia Working Group and McGill University's InterAmicus. During the past fiscal year, the Canada Programme implemented 10 projects, all of them grants, for a total of \$90,000. In the next fiscal year, institutional support to Canadian partners will fall under one of the thematic priorities of Rights & Democracy.

international

Rights & Democracy's International Programme provides institutional support to NGOs in developing countries for advocacy work in the international community, such as the United Nations human rights system and other regional bodies. The staff-managed project, International Access Fund, provides financial support to help NGOs gain access to and monitor regional and international human rights protection and promotion mechanisms. These mechanisms include the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, the Human Rights Committee, the Committee of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, the UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations, the African Commission for Human and Peoples' Rights, the inter-American human rights system and the OAS General Assembly.

During the past year, the International Programme of Rights & Democracy implemented three grant projects for a total of \$41,024. The primary beneficiary was the International Service for Human Rights, providing training to Southern NGOs.

INTERNSHIPS FOR CANADIAN YOUTH

Under a program of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade and thanks, in large measure, to a financial contribution from that department, Rights & Democracy offered internships in the fields of international cooperation, human rights and democratic development to five Canadians aged 18 to 30.

Rights & Democracy would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of them for their tremendous work and commitment to the defence and promotion of human rights. They are Bernard Duhaime, who worked with the International Labour Organization; Angela Laird, who worked with the Coordinadora nacional de mujeres indígenas de Panamá (CONAMUIP); Fred Leung, who worked with the *China Labour Bulletin*; Deanna Matzanke, who worked with the Federation of Women Lawyers FIDA-Kenya, and Hasit Thankey, who worked with the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative.

1999 JOHN HUMPHREY FREEDOM AWARD

Rights & Democracy presents the John Humphrey Freedom Award each year to a non-governmental organization (NGO) or individual for exceptional achievement in the defence or promotion of human rights and/or democratic development. The Award consists of a grant of \$25,000 as well as a speaking tour of Canadian cities to help increase awareness of the recipient's human rights work.

Dr. Cynthia Maung of Burma accepted the 1999 John Humphrey Freedom Award in Montréal on International Human Rights Day. She called on the international community to help in “the struggle against the military dictatorship in Burma and to withhold any assistance that can be used by the regime to prolong its grip on power.” Prisoner of conscience and co-recipient of the Award, Min Ko Naing, who has spent most of the past 10 years in solitary confinement, was also honoured. His Award is being held in trust until his release. Through an advertisement published in the *International Herald Tribune* (Asia-Pacific edition), Rights & Democracy, with its partners, called on Burma to release Min Ko Naing and all political prisoners.



RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Protecting Human Rights in a Global Economy: Challenges for the World Trade Organization, by Robert Howse and Makau Mutua.

A Methodology for Gender-Sensitive Research by Agnès Callamard, published in 1999 by Rights & Democracy with Amnesty International-Canada and the International Secretariat of Amnesty International in London.

Documenting Human Rights Violations by State Agents: Sexual Violence by Agnès Callamard, published in 1999 by Rights & Democracy with Amnesty International-Canada and the International Secretariat of Amnesty International in London.

Women and Peacebuilding, by Dyan E. Mazurana and Susan R. McKay

From National Security to Citizen Security: Civil Society and the Evolution of Public Order Debates by Rachel Neild, 1999.

Indigenous Women's Art Designs: The Inter-American Workshop on Intellectual Property Rights, Ottawa, April 21-24, 1999.

Rights & Democracy also publishes a quarterly newsletter, *Libertas*, as well as an electronic newsletter on women's human rights in conflict situations.

DOCUMENTATION CENTRE

Rights & Democracy's Documentation Centre has an extensive collection of documents on human rights and democracy, including academic monographs, NGO reports, periodicals and newsletters, UN materials and reference tools. There are over 15,000 documents in the collection, with a specific focus on Rights & Democracy's geographic and thematic priorities. The Documentation Centre is open to the public.

Rights & Democracy is a member of the Canada-US Human Rights Information and Documentation Network (CUSHRID Net), which is linked to the international HURIDOCS network. HURIDOCS works to facilitate the exchange of ideas and information among individuals and organizations involved in human rights documentation and information in North America.