

ANNUAL REPORT

2004 | 2005

WE WILL NOT ENJOY DEVELOPMENT WITHOUT SECURITY, WE WILL NOT ENJOY SECURITY WITHOUT DEVELOPMENT, AND WE WILL NOT ENJOY EITHER WITHOUT RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. KOFI ANNAN, UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL



Rights & Democracy

International Centre for Human Rights
and Democratic Development

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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 programmes to strengthen laws and democratic institutions, principally in developing countries.

Rights & Democracy works at the national, regional and international levels. It has a thematic expertise in 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, the strengthening of United Nations and regional human rights mechanisms, and relevant aspects of Canada's foreign policy.

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. Wayne MacKay is the Interim Chairperson.

Members of the Board of Directors

Rebecca Cook (Canada), John Fryer (Canada), Lydia Hwitsum (Canada), Saad Eddin Ibrahim (Egypt), Sofia Macher (Peru), A. Wayne MacKay (Canada), Vitit Muntarbhorn (Thailand), Jean-Louis Roy (President), C. Peter Turner (Canada), Marie Gervais-Vidricaire (Canada).

MESSAGE FROM THE INTERIM CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

It has been a privilege to serve as Interim Chairperson of the Board of Rights & Democracy since the end of Kathleen Mahoney's second term as Chair in November 2004. Let me begin by thanking Kathleen Mahoney for her excellent leadership of the Board and her devotion of time and energy to the work of Rights & Democracy over the past years. I also want to thank our departing Board member, Willy Mutunga, for his wonderful contributions to the work of Rights & Democracy during his years of service. As doors close, new ones open and I am delighted to welcome new Board member Saad Eddin Ibrahim and other new Board members who will be joining us shortly.

As the quote on the cover of this annual report suggests, drawing the line between security and human rights is a difficult but vital task and one that has involved Rights & Democracy at both the international and national levels. Presentations were made to the Parliamentary Committees reviewing the *Anti-Terrorism Act* in Canada and the lines of communication between Rights & Democracy and all federal political parties have been improved. We have also been actively involved in the debates on United Nations reform plans to redesign the body in charge of international human rights. There are many other success stories too numerous to mention.

I would be remiss if I did not also mention the wonderful success of the student network, which now links Rights & Democracy to universities all across Canada. We are also embarking on the exciting task of forging ties between these student delegations and similar student bodies in developing countries throughout the world. We have benefited immensely from the energy, enthusiasm and idealism of these young people who spur us on to more creative and challenging ways of effectively carrying out our mandate.

In closing I want to thank both my fellow Board members and the staff for working together as a team to advance the work of the organization. Your cooperation and support has been much appreciated and I look forward to continuing my work with the Board in whatever capacity that might be. It has been a great year and more great ones lie ahead.



A. Wayne MacKay



Photo: Chris Kralik

For the last six years, Kathleen Mahoney chaired the Board of Directors of Rights & Democracy. Our institution benefited from her extensive knowledge of rights-related issues, her network of national and international contacts and her exemplary commitment. We are deeply grateful for her contribution and hope that she will continue, in the years to come, to share her talents with Rights & Democracy.

The Rights & Democracy Team



Photo: Chris Kralik



Photo: Chris Kralik

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF RIGHTS & DEMOCRACY

Human rights advocates are facing a multitude of urgent challenges, from a security-driven ideology that is undermining basic rights to the growing number of civil conflicts; from the steady deterioration of living conditions across vast regions of the globe to the rise of fundamentalisms that set back women's rights. This report highlights these challenges as well as the courage of advocates in Côte d'Ivoire, Haiti, Rwanda, Afghanistan, Togo, Burma, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Tunisia, to name a few.

Through its convictions and activities, Rights & Democracy works with and supports all those fighting for human rights; individuals who are struggling, primarily at the national level, to promote democratic governance and independent institutions, and to build a cohesive civil society capable of taking initiative and achieving results. These advocates are the avant-garde of all major struggles for democracy and the full recognition of human rights. This annual report is dedicated to these men and women, and is an opportunity for us to highlight their commitment.

Jean-Louis Roy

Staff of Rights & Democracy in 2004 | 2005



Photo: Chris Kralik

NATIONAL

Human Security: An Essential Condition of Democracy

In countries where we work, civilian populations are often taken hostage by conflicts that drag on long after ceasefire agreements and peace accords have been signed and, in some instances, after elections have been held. Insecurity is often the main obstacle to the transition to democracy, making the participation of civil populations a major challenge. Over the last year, we pursued our activities in 16 countries in Asia (Afghanistan, Burma, Indonesia), Africa (Côte d'Ivoire, Malawi, Togo, Nigeria, Democratic Republic of Congo), Latin America (Colombia, Haiti, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama), as well as the Middle East and North Africa (Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia). All of our initiatives, from Afghanistan to the Democratic Republic of Congo and Haiti, prioritize support for organizations in developing countries that are struggling to strengthen democratic institutions and the political culture and to gain the recognition and respect of human rights during transition periods. With this in mind, we work closely with our civil society partners, taking into account their conditions and needs, as well as with institutions concerned about human rights and democratic development. In addition, Rights & Democracy often acts as a mediator in situations where dialogue or agreements have yet to be established between civil society and the government.

Creating Networks to Consolidate Afghan Women's Rights

The third year of the Women's Rights in Afghanistan Fund, financed by CIDA, was a turning point in our involvement on the ground. In collaboration with our office in Kabul, the Afghan Women's Advocacy Committee (AWAC-A) and our regional partners, we diversified our activities in Afghanistan's provinces, facilitated access to documentation on women's rights by translating it into the local language, and launched a network of resource centres in provinces with few services. This year we also expanded our action in the region, especially in Pakistan where, in December 2004, we offered a training programme to build the capacity of women's organizations and women's rights activists in Afghanistan and throughout the region.



We often forget that one of the largest refugee populations in the world has resided in Iran for over 25 years. These refugees are Afghans who fled the conflict and rebuilt their lives in Iran. At the beginning of the year, the Iranian government announced that these people would have to return to Afghanistan, depriving them of many of their rights and resorting to various pressure tactics to force their repatriation. In an effort to strengthen Afghan women's networks, Rights & Democracy's Ariane Brunet and Lauryn Oates travelled to Iran last December to explore the possibilities for Iranian and Afghan women to build ties and set common objectives.

From left to right, (1st row): Louise Lavallée, Dominic Tremblay, Anyle Coté, Marie-France Cloutier; 2nd row: Madeleine Desnoyers, Patricia Daigle, Diana Bronson, Carmen Melfi, Geneviève Lessard, Patrick St-Louis, Razmik Panossian; 3rd row: Marie St-Louis, Roya Rahmani (Office in Kabul, Afghanistan), Lauryn Oates, Carole Samdup, Micheline (Mika) Lévesque, Cynthia Gervais, Isabelle Vallée, Steve Smith; Last row: Gisèle-Eva Côté, Antonio José Almeida, Akouété Akakpo-Vidah, Jean-Louis Roy, Maxime Longangué, Anne-Marie Lavoie and Michael Wodzicki. Absent: Iris Almeida, Véronique Bosset, Ariane Brunet, Louise Chicoine, Marie Léger, Lloyd Lipsett, Louis Moubarak, François Moreau, Isabelle Solon-Helal.



On October 19, 2004, Shirin Ebadi, 2003 Nobel Peace Prize winner, visiting our offices in Montreal and participating in a meeting organized by Rights & Democracy in collaboration with several partners. Ms Ebadi talked about women's rights in Iran, feminism and Islam and the creation of an Islamic arbitration tribunal in Canada. For more information on this presentation, visit our Web site: www.dd-rd.ca.

Insecurity continues to be a major obstacle for our partners and we are intervening among the parties involved to improve security conditions and enable women to pursue their activities free of harassment, sexual violence, conflict and cultural and social constraints that prevent them from participating as equals in civil society and political life. This work included the publication of *At the Crossroads of Conflict and Democracy: Women and Afghanistan's Constitutional Loya Jirga*, an analysis of women's participation in Afghanistan's peace process and the Constitutional Loya Jirga (CLJ). This report recommends a series of measures to improve security conditions for certain political events, in particular the 2004 national elections, to take advantage of the constitutional provisions with regard to women's rights by promoting the application of the new Constitution and to improve women's access to justice.



The Web site of the Women's Rights in Afghanistan Fund, launched this year, is designed for our partners as well as women's rights organizations. Offered in English and Dari, it contains a database of our projects as well as several documents in Dari and Pashto. For more information, visit the Web site: www.wraf.ca.

Security: A Vital Issue for Democratic Transition in the Democratic Republic of Congo

Our key objective for the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has been to accompany the democratic transition in the lead up to the 2005 elections. We supported the efforts of civil society organizations for free and transparent elections and promoted women's participation in the electoral process. The Ligue nationale pour des élections libres et transparentes (LINELIT) also received our support to train impartial election observers, and we assisted Women as Partners for Peace in Africa (WOPPA) in their efforts to promote women's participation in the electoral process and the drafting of the Constitution.

Free and transparent elections are impossible without human security. This year's annual Think Tank, which focussed on *The Democratic Transition and the Campaign against Impunity in the Democratic Republic of Congo: Keys to the Stabilization of Central Africa*, underlined the urgent need to take action to resolve the security problems in the DRC, particularly in eastern Congo. This meeting, held on June 10, 2004, brought together 100 participants, including Congolese, Canadian and international speakers, to assess the progress made since the establishment of the government of national unity in the DRC on June 30, 2003, and to identify the main challenges facing this government in the lead up to the 2005 elections.

In the face of ongoing insecurity in the eastern Congo, Rights & Democracy sent a mission to Goma and Bunia to meet with the members of several Congolese NGOs and to identify measures to fight the impunity surrounding crimes of sexual violence, as well as the use of rape as a weapon of war. At the request of these organizations, we are currently preparing a training manual on the International Criminal Court and crimes targeting women, accompanied by a series of training workshops, that will start in fall 2005. In 2004, the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court launched an investigation into crimes of sexual violence in the DRC which sparked interest among Congolese NGOs wishing to learn more about the ICC, particularly with respect to witness protection.

Did you know?

The *Global and Inclusive Agreement*, signed in 2002, laid the groundwork for the democratic transition in the DRC, stipulating the surrendering of arms and elections before June 30, 2005. The Agreement also provided two opportunities for postponing the election by six months, if required by logistical delays. For more information, see *The Transition in the Democratic Republic of Congo: A Historic Opportunity*, published by Rights & Democracy for its annual Think Tank: www.dd-rd.ca.



Democratic Development and Civil Society Movements in Morocco was prepared primarily for actors from the government, non-government, university and international cooperation sectors interested in the consolidation of the democratic process in Morocco and democratization in the Middle East. The study has also been published in Arabic.



Mokhtar Trifi, President of the Ligue tunisienne des droits de l'homme (LTDH), during the launch of the World Summit on the Information Society and Freedom of Expression campaign in Montreal on May 10, 2005. From January 25 to 28, 2005, Jean-Louis Roy, President of Rights & Democracy, participated as an expert in an international fact-finding mission to Tunisia in order to observe first-hand the conditions for civil society participation in preparatory meetings and the second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society, scheduled for November 2005. The International Federation for Human Rights, the World Organisation Against Torture, and Rights & Democracy, with support from the Human Rights Caucus, composed of over 60 NGOs that participated in the first phase of the Summit, mandated a team of experts for this mission, who were also charged with assessing the human rights situation in Tunisia. In a report published in May 2005, the members of the mission expressed serious concerns about the capacity or desire of the Tunisian authorities to satisfactorily conform to their obligations under international law. The mission's report is available on our Web site: www.dd-rd.ca.

Seizing the Moment: Morocco at the Crossroads

Democratic Development and Civil Society Movements in Morocco was released during the National Forum on Democratic Development in Morocco, held from November 19 to 21 2004 in Rabat. This study was the fruit of several months of collaboration between Rights & Democracy and Espace Associatif—an association of over 40 civil society organizations. Prepared with and for civil society actors, the study analyzes the civil society movement and highlights issues pertaining to State–civil society relations, political parties, international organizations and funding agencies. The Forum, which brought together over 100 participants from government and civil society, offered an ideal opportunity to present the findings of this study and to expand the collaboration between civil society and other local, national and international players.

Morocco has experienced a number of political, economic and social changes and is at the heart of a transformation that some call a “democratic transition” while others qualify as only a “partial political opening.” On the positive side, changes have included reform of the family code to provide for greater gender equality, the creation of national instruments to protect human rights, and an improvement in literacy rates and freedom of expression. Problems persist, however, including growing inequalities and a legal system that falls short in terms of its independence, accessibility and transparency. The study addresses these challenges, looks at the progress that has been made as well as the work that remains to be done to achieve a full democratic transition.

Anas El Hasnaoui, coordinator of the study in Morocco, Naima Ben Wakrim, a women’s rights activist, and Seddik Lahrach, a human rights activist in Morocco, visited Canada from March 5 to 12, 2005, by invitation of Rights & Democracy, to discuss the results of the study. During their stay, they participated in various activities, including the release of the study in Ottawa on March 7, and a meeting with civil society organizations on March 10 at our offices.

Since 1990, Rights & Democracy has been supporting research on democratic development. Using a participatory methodology, Rights & Democracy, in collaboration with civil society groups, profiles the state of democracy at transitional stages in different countries in order to provide civil society groups and governments with avenues for discussion and methods for pursuing their efforts to consolidate democracy in their respective countries.

Establishing Long-term Programming in Haiti

The instability and insecurity that daily undermines the transition to democracy in Haiti have made the organization of elections a very complex and risky operation. In such a climate of crisis, how is it possible to work toward the long-term construction of democracy? Through its programme in Haiti, Rights & Democracy’s goal is to support Haitian civil society so that it can play a crucial role in this transition. Exemplary human rights advocacy and popular consultation strategies led by Haitian organizations is systematized so as to create models for similar bodies. On the basis of this initiative, training material is designed, and training sessions are offered by Rights & Democracy. Some of the issues addressed are: how to formulate demands, legislative and policy proposals as well as strategies to influence governments, including mechanisms for dialogue. This project is primarily designed for groups that do not have sufficient financial or human resources to influence established powers, particularly local citizen groups in rural areas, women’s groups, youth organizations and human rights groups.

On the Canadian front, Rights & Democracy organized two consultative groups on Haiti in May 2004 and March 2005. These meetings provided an ideal forum for discussion and exchange between government and non-government representatives concerned about the Haitian situation.



In December 2004, following Mexican President Vicente Fox’s visit to Canada, Rights & Democracy organized a consultative group on Mexico. This meeting was an opportunity to assess the state of Canada-Mexico relations and develop ways to contribute to the democratic transition and the respect of human rights in Mexico.



In Colombia, the Embera Katio people engaged in a 72-day standoff with the Colombian government. Occupying the offices of the Organización Nacional Indígena de Colombia (ONIC), which threw its support behind their demands, the Embera Katio demanded that the government resume negotiations to guarantee their rights and autonomy on their territory. On April 8, the Embera Katio and the Colombian government reached an agreement. We continue to carefully monitor the situation in Colombia and pursue our interventions there, particularly in terms of condemning the violations of indigenous peoples’ rights, and the government’s inaction in the face of indigenous peoples’ demands.



Rights & Democracy was relieved to learn in December 2004 of the release of the 1999 John Humphrey Prize co-laureate, Min Ko Naing, President of the All Burma Federation of Student Unions (ABFSU). Arrested in March 24, 1989, he was sentenced to 20 years in prison (subsequently reduced to 10 years under a general amnesty) for his anti-government activities. Min Ko Naing led a non-violent student movement that opposed the military regime and advocated in favour of democracy and freedom of association. Since his release, Min Ko Naing has been the target of intimidation and harassment.

Canada Shows Much-needed Solidarity for the Legitimate Authorities of Burma

There has been little to celebrate in Burma in the last 15 years. The military junta forced parliamentarians democratically elected in the 1990 elections into exile, where they formed the National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma (NCGUB). The military junta in power continues to perpetrate systematic and repeated human rights abuses in the form of arrests and detentions without trial, summary and arbitrary executions, torture and rape. However, there are some glimmers of hope. For the first time, the Canadian Parliament adopted a motion in May 2005 condemning the massive human rights violations in Burma and the Burmese military regime. Through this motion, the Canadian government has committed to demanding that the Burmese authorities immediately and unconditionally release all political prisoners, particularly 1991 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi who has been placed under house arrest three times, most recently in May 2003. The Canadian government has also committed to showing concrete support for the legitimate authorities of Burma, namely the NCGUB, and imposing economic sanctions against Burma. The motion brings Canada in line with the European Union and countries that have followed in the footsteps of Norway and Sweden in condemning the Burmese military regime.

This motion was adopted as a result of several years of hard work in Canada by Rights & Democracy and its partners. In December 2004, Rights & Democracy welcomed the exiled Prime Minister of Burma, Sein Winn, to Canada. Following a joint presentation by Prime Minister Sein Winn and Rights & Democracy, a first motion condemning Burma's military regime was adopted by the Human Rights and International Development Subcommittee and the House of Commons Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade, to be tabled in Parliament. Rights & Democracy was the first organization in the world to provide political and financial support to the government-in-exile in 1990.

The Dalai Lama Visits Canada to Broaden Support for the Tibetan Cause

During his visit to Canada, His Holiness the Dalai Lama was the guest of honour at a policy seminar entitled *Tibet-China Negotiations: Building Peace through Dialogue* on April 23, 2004, organized by Rights & Democracy in association with the Canada Tibet Committee. The goal of this event was to encourage the Canadian government to play a leadership role by acting as an impartial intermediary to facilitate negotiations between representatives of the Dalai Lama and Chinese authorities. Two recent meetings between Chinese and Tibetan representatives may have opened the door to renewed discussions between China and Tibet, which have been cut off since 1993. The seminar opened with comments by Andrew Fischer, author of *Economic Dimensions of Autonomy and the Right to Development in Tibet*, published by Rights & Democracy. Seminar participants came from a broad range of backgrounds.

Rights & Democracy is a long-standing advocate of democracy and human rights in Tibet. Since 1993, it has provided, among other things, start-up funding to the Tibetan government-in-exile to facilitate its access to the Internet so that it can keep its lines of communication open with the international community.



In Human Rights at Risk on the Cyber-battlefield, released in October 2004, Rights & Democracy expressed its concerns about the sale of security and surveillance technology to the People's Republic of China that would be used to stifle freedom of expression and violate human rights. The document recommends that the Canadian government and companies that profit directly from the sale of these technologies be required to assess the repercussions of these sales on human rights. Rights & Democracy was responding to a series of trade initiatives supported by the Canadian government in China, including the trade mission on surveillance technologies coordinated by the National Research Council of Canada in September 2004 and the PT Expo Comm 2004 Trade Fair on telecommunications and information technologies, in October 2004, involving a number of Canadian businesses.



Photo: Chris Kraaik

During his participation in the policy seminar on April 23, 2004, in Ottawa, His Holiness the Dalai Lama explained his "Middle-Way Approach" as a way to address both Chinese concerns as well as the priorities of the Tibetan people, namely to enjoy a life of freedom, peace and dignity. The Dalai Lama restated that his "Middle-Way Approach" does not mean the independence or separation of Tibet from China, but rather genuine autonomy and the introduction of a democratic system of governance for Tibet's three traditional provinces. For more information, see our Web site: www.dd-rd.ca.



Photo: Chris Kraaik

His Holiness the Dalai Lama met with Prime Minister Paul Martin on April 23, 2004. Since the Dalai Lama's visit, Canadian MPs have repeatedly shown their support for renewed talks. A letter to this effect was signed by a majority of MPs and the Senate adopted a motion calling on the Government of Canada to act as a mediator and encourage China to resume dialogue.

REGIONAL

Human Rights at the Heart of Regional Integration and Cooperation

Recognition and respect for human rights are essential conditions for ensuring peace and strengthening security at the national, regional and international levels. While the State's first responsibility is to protect its citizens, it must also ensure full respect of human rights and implement measures to promote equitable social and economic development with the aim of reducing poverty and social exclusion. In an increasingly "globalized" world, regional institutions and mechanisms are becoming crucial spaces for discussion on the establishment of norms and the implementation of joint action. Rights & Democracy has and will continue to support the development and strengthening of human rights protection mechanisms within regional organizations such as the Organization of American States (OAS) and the African Union, to ensure that human rights underpin the discussions and decisions that take place within these bodies. In keeping with this, our partnerships with a wide range of players—from human rights, indigenous rights and women's rights groups to democratic movements and governments all over the world—constitute the very foundation of our strength and are absolutely necessary to achieving our human rights objectives.

The Inter-American Commission Focuses on the Effects of Free Trade Agreements on Human Rights

For the first time since its creation, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights looked at the impact of free trade agreements on human rights, during an historic session on October 22, 2004. The Inter-American Commission's openness to addressing this issue is the result of long-standing efforts by many organizations, including Rights & Democracy, the Miguel Agustín Pro Juárez Human Rights Centre (Mexico), Coordinación Nacional de Derechos Humanos (Peru), Centro de Investigación y Educación Popular (CINEP, Colombia), Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales (CELS, Argentina), Centre for Justice and International Law (CEJIL, Latin America), and the Programa Venezolano

de Educación-Acción en Derechos Humanos (PROVEA, Venezuela). This initiative represents a first step in demonstrating before the Commission how certain international trade norms pose a risk to human rights.

As part of the effort to strengthen the inter-American system, non-governmental organizations intervened to protect the independence of the Inter-American Commission and the autonomy of its Executive Secretariat which were threatened by the restructuring undertaken by the former Secretary General of the OAS, who has since been relieved of his duties. This work bore fruit when the interim Secretary General, Luigi Einaudi, reinstated the principles guaranteeing the Commission's autonomy. In Canada, Rights & Democracy pursued its campaign for Canada's ratification of the *American Convention on Human Rights* and other inter-American human rights instruments, and continued to intervene in favour of the adoption of the *Interamerican Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People*.

Did you know?

The OAS's human rights protection system offers recourse to residents of the Americas who have been the target of rights violations by the State and have been unable to obtain justice in their own country. The pillars of this system are the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, located in Washington, D.C., and the Inter-American Human Rights Court, in San José, Costa Rica. Both of these institutions apply regional human rights law. For more information, visit the OAS site: www.oas.org.



Unfulfilled Obligations: Human Rights and Free Trade Agreements in the Americas was published in English, French and Spanish by the Miguel Agustín Pro Juárez Human Rights Centre (Mexico), in collaboration with Rights & Democracy. Distributed during the first Social Forum of the Americas, held in Quito, Ecuador, from July 25 to 30, 2004, it illustrates how the legal framework and human rights mechanisms of the inter-American system can serve as valuable tools for promoting fair and equitable regional integration. Rights & Democracy, in association with partners, held a workshop at the Forum on the theme of *Human Rights as an instrument of Action Against Economic Integration* with the objective of identifying actions to counter the negative social repercussions of free trade agreements.

"It is the right and responsibility of all citizens to participate in decisions relating to their own development and it is the responsibility of governments to create an enabling environment. This is also a necessary condition for the full and effective exercise of democracy. Promoting and fostering diverse forms of participation, including enabling dialogue between governments and civil society, strengthens democracy."

Article 1.9, Section I,
Draft Declaration on Elections,
Democracy and Governance
in Africa.

Regional African Organizations: Creating New Human Rights Protection Mechanisms

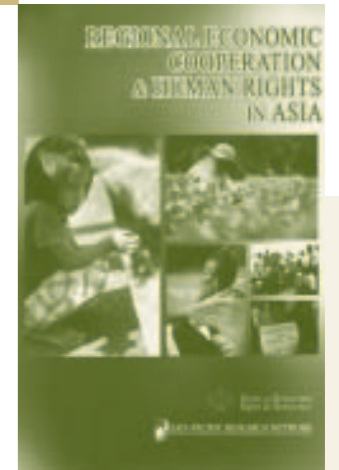
In the context of serious under-funding of regional African institutions, Rights & Democracy pursued its efforts with the Commission of the African Union and the African Court of Human and Peoples Rights for the implementation of new regional human rights protection mechanisms and the development of democratic norms within these institutions. This included sending one of our interns, from the Young Professionals International programme, to Banjul, Gambia, to assist the Special Rapporteur on Women's Rights and support her campaign to ratify the Protocol on Women's Rights in Africa. Only four more countries still need to sign the Protocol for it to enter into effect. We also contributed to the establishment of the African Court by inviting one of the representatives of the Secretariat of the African Commission to participate in a training session at the Interamerican Human Rights Court in February 2005, thereby providing an opportunity for discussion and learning. In addition to participating in the work of the international coalition for an effective African Court of Human and Peoples Rights, we are continuing to advocate for the development of a Charter of Democracy and Good Governance in Africa, which would be binding on States. This new charter would be developed on the basis of the conclusions of an experts' report on elections, democracy and governance in Africa, published in May 2004 and adopted by the African Union Summit in July 2004.

Rights & Democracy held a technical seminar for lusophone African countries in Cape Verde, from May 20 to 21, to assist States during the ratification and implementation of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. The primary goal of this seminar, funded by Foreign Affairs Canada, was to provide technical support to representatives of these States to enable them to harmonize their domestic laws with the obligations of the Rome Statute, and to create a space for dialogue and cooperation between these government representatives, NGOs and the media.

Integrating Human Rights in Asia's Economic Cooperation Processes

While Asia is the fastest-growing region in the world, it also faces major challenges on four inter-connected fronts, namely development, globalization, militarism and human rights violations. To respond to these challenges, the Asia Pacific Research Network (APRN) and Rights & Democracy organized a regional seminar on economic cooperation and human rights in Asia, held in Olongapo City, Philippines, from June 4 to June 6, 2004. The event brought together some 40 civil society representatives and academics from across South Asia and Southeast Asia to evaluate the current status of cooperation agreements in the region and their impact on human rights. It is important to note that while several trade and investment agreements have already been signed, there is still no pan-Asian human rights protection system in place. The report from this meeting, *Regional Economic Cooperation and Human Rights in Asia*, published by the Asia Pacific Research Network, in collaboration with Rights & Democracy, can be used by organizations and individuals interested in adopting a human rights framework for the struggle against poverty and underdevelopment in Asia.

In collaboration with the Regional Human Security Centre (Amman, Jordan), Rights & Democracy organized a workshop on June 22 and 23, 2004, entitled Rights, Pluralism, and Human Security in the Middle East and North Africa: Putting Ideas into Practice, attended by experts and activists from Egypt, Iraq, Iran, Jordan, Morocco, Palestine, Yemen and Turkey who shared their experiences and their concerns about democratization in the region.



The report Regional Economic Cooperation and Human Rights in Asia is available in English. To obtain a copy, contact the Asia Pacific Research Network at: secretariat@aprnet.org.

Indigenous Women a Decade Later

The end of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (1994-2004) was an ideal opportunity to highlight and share the strengths, hopes and struggles of the indigenous women of the Americas. In collaboration with Quebec Native Women and the Continental Network of Indigenous Women in the Americas (Enlace), Rights & Democracy published an educational and training tool in fall 2004 entitled *Indigenous Women of the Americas*. This information kit, comprised of information sheets on a variety of issues for discussion, is intended for indigenous women interested in learning how to use the international forums and mechanisms available to them to advance their cause and ensure that their rights are respected. It also proposes potential avenues for action, particularly with respect to indigenous peoples' intellectual property rights to traditional designs and patterns, and the militarization of their territories.

Women members of the Enlace network, present in 13 countries, as well as several member groups of Quebec Native Women, use this tool for their training activities. Over the next year, this information kit may be adapted for use by indigenous women in Asia.

Continental Network of Indigenous Women

Since 1993, Rights & Democracy has been supporting the Continental Network of Indigenous Women (Enlace) which provides indigenous women with a space where they can define common positions and speak out at international forums. An external evaluation of the strategic orientations of the theme of Indigenous Rights, carried out in summer 2004, concluded that "Rights & Democracy has made a tremendous contribution through its support to the Continental Network of Indigenous Women." (October 2004, p. 14) However, the authors of this study also noted that it is important for the Network to acquire greater operational and financial autonomy. Over the last year, Rights & Democracy has worked toward this goal. The Network now has a three-year strategic plan and has established a technical secretariat in Panama, under the direction of the National Coordination of Indigenous Women of Panama (CONAMUIP).

INTERNATIONAL

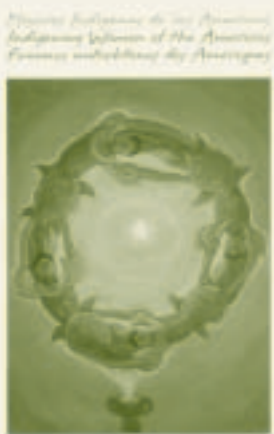
Putting Human Rights into Practice

One of Rights & Democracy's main objectives is to narrow the sometimes considerable gap that exists between the official "adherence" of States to international human rights treaties and the practices of these States with regard to respecting these rights. The current challenge is not just to ensure that States sign international treaties but comply with them; it is essential that signatory countries put these rights into practice so that all citizens can live in peace and security. These principles have informed our actions over the last year. For instance, we participated in international forums, such as the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), to encourage States to adopt concrete measures to eradicate hunger and malnutrition in the world. We also launched and supported initiatives to provide communities and individuals, particularly women and indigenous peoples, with the means to better understand and enforce their rights. One of these initiatives focused on communities and consisted in developing concrete tools to measure and analyze the impact of foreign investment projects on human rights. In the next few years, as we continue to intervene and advocate for the integration of human rights into normative tools and trade agreement negotiations, we will devote greater efforts to ensure that human rights are put into practice and that civil society organizations have the means to participate fully in the decision-making processes that affect them.

Assessing the Impact of Investment Projects on Human Rights

Too often, investment decisions are made without any consideration for human rights. As a result, people find their rights over-ridden by decisions made far away, and project sponsors find themselves facing community opposition.

Rights & Democracy launched a three-year project to develop a methodology and tools to evaluate the impact of investment projects on human rights. Based on the model of environmental impact studies, we will establish an analytical framework that would enable policy-makers, investors and communities to submit projects, such as dam construction and resource extraction, to an in-depth human rights impact assessment.



Indigenous Women of the Americas is published in English, French and Spanish.



We set up an International Steering Committee that met for the first time in November 2004 to establish project selection criteria during the initial phase of this initiative. The Committee is composed of various human rights experts from Canada and abroad, including Paul Hunt, Special Rapporteur on the Right to Health. A call for proposals was also launched in order to gather case studies that will help us to develop and test this methodology. We received more than 40 projects from around the world and from various sectors. From 2005 to 2007, we plan to test our methodology, based on the *UN Norms on the Responsibilities of Transnational Corporations with Regard to Human Rights*, by applying it to at least five specific projects in five different countries.

The Right to Adequate Food: A Step in the Right Direction

According to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), over 850 million people suffer from hunger or malnutrition around the world—over half of whom are children. Representatives of UN Member States have committed to cutting this number in half by 2015. Eighty percent of the population suffering from hunger live in rural areas where survival depends on agriculture. Yet, food supplies on the planet are more than sufficient and indeed largely exceed our needs.

After more than eight years of debate, we were pleased to learn of the FAO's decision in September 2004 to adopt guidelines on the right to food. This set of guidelines is a practical tool for States specifically designed to mobilize the necessary political will—up until now non-existent—to end hunger and malnutrition in the world. These guidelines provide populations with the tools to force governments to respect their obligations under the international treaties they have signed and ratified. For many years, Rights & Democracy, in collaboration with its various partners, has played an active role in encouraging States to commit to the implementation of measures to ensure adequate food for all. This is the first step to eradicating hunger and a concrete result of the 1996 World Summit on Food and the follow-up Summit, five years later, in 2001.

To apply the FAO's guidelines within the framework of a national project, Rights & Democracy supported an awareness campaign in Malawi on the right to adequate food. Ultimately, capacity-building in villages will allow the population to influence policies adopted on the national level. In February 2005, representatives of villager committees invited parliamentarians to participate in a two-day seminar during which they proposed a national bill to eradicate hunger in Malawi. They designed the second stage of the campaign, namely an action plan to promote adoption of the bill.



Malawi Seminar, February 2005.

Keeping the Focus on International Trade

The current framework for the WTO negotiations (WTO Framework Agreement, July 2004) leaves no hope that the issue of subsistence and food security among millions of the world's poor farmers will be on the agenda since it does not address overproduction subsidized by wealthy States, nor does it contain any extraterritorial obligations for States that adopt these practices. Yet, the capacity of Member States to honour their obligations to the right to food cannot be dissociated from national and international policies governing agricultural trade. Our advocacy work focuses on ensuring that human rights are at the core of trade negotiations and practices and that extraterritorial obligations related to human rights applicable to international agricultural trade are clarified, within the WTO and the Commission on Human Rights. We will continue to work with a large international network of human rights organizations within a coalition known as the Human Rights Caucus at the WTO which has been active since the ministerial conference in Cancun, Mexico, in 2003.

Rights & Democracy also took part in discussions with the World Bank, in particular with the International Finance Corporation, in reviewing its performance criteria, in order to encourage more explicit support of human rights standards and the application of these standards by the World Bank in financing the private sector. We attended the meetings held in fall 2004 and, on February 14, 2005, we participated in a special consultation organized by the International Finance Corporation and Mary Robinson's Ethical Globalization Initiative.

Contributing to the Reform of the Commission on Human Rights

Rights & Democracy continues to contribute to the work of the Commission on Human Rights and to monitor its reform process. A policy seminar was organized, in collaboration with the Centre d'études et de recherches internationales de l'Université de Montréal (CÉRIUM), on March 9, 2005, to formulate recommendations for the Canadian government with regard to this reform and to prepare for the Commission's 61st session in April 2005. During the 61st session, we also intervened along with other organizations, including Amnesty International, to support the adoption of a resolution on transnational corporations and human rights. This resolution stipulated the appointment of a Special Representative of the Secretary General whose mandate would be to examine certain issues related to corporate responsibility in the area of human rights and to develop instruments to measure the impact of corporate activities on human rights.





Godeliève Mukasarasi, winner of the John Humphrey Freedom Award, and Françoise Nduwimana, author of *The Right to Survive: Sexual Violence, Women and HIV/AIDS*, the first study to address the issue of justice for women who contracted HIV/AIDS as a result of sexual violence during the Rwandan genocide from the perspective of the right to reparation.

Sexual Violence, HIV/AIDS and Justice: Women's Right to Survive

Many women who did not perish during the 100 days that shook Rwanda were exposed to another form of death—a long, horrible and insidious death caused by HIV/AIDS. Today, 10 years after the Rwandan genocide, the death toll is still rising as women who contracted HIV/AIDS as a result of rape continue to perish.

To break the silence and especially to help these women obtain justice and reparation, Rights & Democracy published *The Right to Survive: Sexual Violence, Women and HIV/AIDS* by Françoise Nduwimana. The study was released on December 7, 2004, in the presence of some 40 NGO members, academics and media representatives as well as Godeliève Mukasarasi, winner of the 2004 John Humphrey Freedom Award and social worker in Rwanda who works with these women. The study provides a better understanding of the link between the right to reparation and HIV/AIDS for women who contracted the disease as a result of acts of rape during the genocide. We undertook this study in collaboration with the Coalition for Women's Human Rights in Conflict Situations at the request of NGOs and Rwandan women, for whom justice cannot be served without reparation. The study also looks at sexual violence against women in an African regional context, particularly in the DRC and Burundi.

The Coalition, coordinated by Rights & Democracy, continued to follow the work of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) on sexual violence. In a letter sent to Prosecutor Jallow on February 8, 2005, the Coalition expressed its deep concern regarding the decision to drop the rape charges against accused Tharcisse Muvunyi, former commander of the military district of Butare and Gikongoro. It also asked the Prosecutor to re-open investigations into acts of sexual violence related to this case. On February 23, 2005, at the beginning of the trial, the Prosecutor reconsidered his decision and announced that he would submit evidence of sexual violence to support allegations against Muvunyi.

Countering the Possible Repercussions of Religious-based Arbitration on Women's Rights

During the year, Rights & Democracy initiated a discussion on how women's rights could be affected by arbitration based on religious law. In a letter addressed to the Attorney General for Ontario, Rights & Democracy recommended, in keeping with the position of the Canadian Council of Muslim Women and the National Association of Women and the Law (NAWL), that matters relating to family law be excluded



Warren Allmand and Kenneth Deer, contributors to Indigenous Rights between the Two Decades. Kenneth Deer, long-time co-chair of the UN Indigenous Peoples' Caucus, explains the context in which the first decade was launched and the hopes it ignited among the world's indigenous peoples. Warren Allmand, former Solicitor General and Minister of Indian Affairs, and former President of Rights & Democracy, traces the history of the recognition and participation of indigenous peoples within the United Nations system. There is also a contribution by Isabel Madariaga Cuneo, a lawyer at the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

from the *Arbitration Act*. In her report entitled *Protecting Choice, Promoting Inclusion*, Marion Boyd made recommendations that favour the application of religious law for settling family lawsuits, under Ontario's *Arbitration Act*. In the coming year, we plan to launch various initiatives to counter the adoption of such a decision in Canada which would contravene Canada's obligations both domestically and internationally. This decision could have devastating effects on the rights of women around the world and impede the recognition of the universality, indivisibility and inalienability of the rights of women—principles set forth in the Declaration and Programme of Action of the World Conference on Human Rights, adopted in Vienna in June 1993.

Breathing New Life into the Draft International Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People

In December 2004, the United Nations General Assembly declared a Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (2005-2015), with the objective of further strengthening international cooperation and finding solutions to problems of particular concern to indigenous communities, especially human rights violations. While the first International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (1994-2004) achieved certain goals, including the creation of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, it did not lead to the adoption of the *International Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*.

The UN Working Group did, however, breathe new life into the process of adopting the Declaration at its last session in September 2004, when the Canadian government showed greater openness to certain provisions regarding the right of indigenous peoples to self-determination. This openness is the fruit of a long-term initiative by Rights & Democracy with Canadian indigenous and non-indigenous organizations to win the support of the Government of Canada. In order to promote ongoing dialogue between government and non-government bodies, particularly regarding the Declaration, we organized a strategic meeting in Ottawa on March 21, 2005, to explore Canada's priorities and strategies to achieve specific objectives within the timeframe of this new decade. On the occasion of the 61st session of the Commission on Human Rights, Rights & Democracy, in association with Amnesty International, the International Federation for Human Rights, Friends World Committee for Consultation (Quakers) and the Netherlands Centre for Indigenous Peoples, also organized a Roundtable entitled *Advancing the Human Rights of Indigenous Peoples: A Critical Challenge for the International Human Rights System*.

"Even if there is protective national and international legislation in place, in many places, the rights of indigenous peoples are frequently denied in practice. For this reason, the commitment of the national and international NGO community is crucial, not only to raise awareness of human rights abuses, but also of the current standard setting exercise for the finalization of a Declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples."

Speech by Louise Arbour, Roundtable, *Advancing the Human Rights of Indigenous Peoples: A Critical Challenge for the International Human Rights System*, Commission on Human Rights, April 13, 2005.

Did you know?

"As of December 2003, women accounted for nearly 50% of all people living with HIV worldwide and for 57% in sub-Saharan Africa. Women and girls also bear the brunt of the impact of the epidemic; they are most likely to take care of sick people, to lose jobs, income and schooling as a result of illness, and to face stigma and discrimination."

Excerpt from the 2004 Report on the Global AIDS Epidemic, fourth edition, Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS.

Rapid Intervention in Urgent Situations

On February 5, 2005, the death of Gnassingé Eyadema, Togo's President since 1967, led to a military coup in which his son, Faure Gnassingbé, seized power and changed the country's Constitution to legitimize his hold on power. Rights & Democracy not only condemned the military coup and the Constitutional changes, but also demanded free and democratic elections. In February, we were already supporting the efforts of Togo's civil society, particularly the Concertation nationale de la société civile togolaise, for the return to constitutional law. We also provided financial support to deploy national observers during the elections held on April 24, 2005. Rights & Democracy is presently one of the few foreign organizations supporting the efforts of Togo's civil society in this cause. We have been supporting many pro-democracy and human rights initiatives in Togo since 1992.

The Urgent Action and Important Opportunities Initiative, established by the Board of Directors of Rights & Democracy, enables us to respond quickly to human rights violations, humanitarian crises or political unrest, within the scope of our mandate, that have not been earmarked in our regular budget. This year, this initiative enabled us to strengthen our support to Haiti and to contribute to the training of human rights trainers in Darfur, particularly village leaders.



In January 2005, on the eve of the Jakarta Summit of donor countries on humanitarian assistance in countries affected by the tsunami on December 26, a Canadian coalition of NGOs that includes Rights & Democracy strongly criticized practices by the Indonesian army in its delivery of aid to the Aceh region. In a letter to the federal ministers responsible for Canadian aid to the tsunami-affected countries, the Coalition condemned the military operations underway in Aceh province which hindered the delivery of humanitarian aid. Soon after, the Canadian government urged the Indonesian government to declare a ceasefire, to suspend all military operations, and focus all efforts on humanitarian assistance in the devastated Aceh region.

Our Commitment in Canada

A Rwandan Wins the John Humphrey Freedom Award

On December 9, 2004, two hundred people gathered at the Museum of Civilization in Ottawa to pay tribute to Godeliève Mukasarasi, winner of the 2004 John Humphrey Freedom Award, and to highlight her outstanding contribution to the rights of Rwandan women. The ceremony marked the end of a Canadian tour, from November 25 to December 11, 2004, that took the laureate to Halifax, Moncton, Hampton, Toronto, Montreal and Ottawa, where she participated in moving and stimulating exchanges. The tour was also an opportunity to raise awareness among Canadians about the consequences of sexual violence against women during the genocide, many of whom contracted HIV/AIDS, and in other conflict situations. Despite the horror of the genocide and the immense scope of what is now needed to heal the wounds, Godeliève Mukasarasi's determination is unwavering. She came to Canada with a message, a message from Rwandan women who are alone, scarred or gradually succumbing to AIDS, so that they can regain their dignity, obtain justice and reparation and rebuild their lives and communities. The Award, which includes a \$25,000 CAN grant as well as a pan-Canadian speaking tour, is an opportunity to raise awareness among the Canadian public, governments, non-government organizations and media about the human rights situation in the laureate's country.

Godeliève Mukasarasi...

...is a survivor of the Rwandan genocide who has campaigned for many years for women's rights in her country. With a background in social work and her ongoing work with the Women's Network for Rural Development, Ms Mukasarasi is an exceptional advocate for women victims of sexual violence and rape during the 1994 genocide in Rwanda and to those who subsequently contracted HIV/AIDS. She is the founder of SEVOTA, a support group for widows and orphans from Taba, and Urunana, a place where women survivors of violence and rape, both Tutsi and Hutu, can join together in dialogue. Ms Mukasarasi has been instrumental in breaking the silence and documenting crimes of sexual violence for the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR). Her work facilitating the testimony of women survivors of sexual violence helped set a legal precedent on October 2, 1998, when an international court imposed the first-ever sentence for sexual violence perpetrated in the context of civil war and recognized rape as an act of genocide and torture. Ms Mukasarasi is now working toward ending impunity in Rwanda and ensuring that women obtain justice and reparation.



Godeliève Mukasarasi, Rwanda



Rights & Democracy's Anyle Coté, Officer, Special Events & Publications, and Louis Moubarak, Officer, External Relations, were awarded the Prix Équinoxe "Social Campaign of the Year" for their work on the 2004 John Humphrey Freedom Award tour. On May 31, some 350 public relations professionals paid tribute to the best projects in Quebec at the 11th gala evening for the 2005 Prix Équinoxes, organized by the Société des relationnistes du Québec (SRQ), an association of public relations professionals. The award ceremony was an opportunity for the two recipients to highlight the courage of Godeliève Mukasarasi, laureate of the 2004 John Humphrey Freedom Award, as well as the courage of thousands of Rwandan women victims of sexual violence who contracted HIV/AIDS and who are now fighting for justice and reparation.

The Rights & Democracy Network in Canadian Universities: The Next Generation “Working to Put the World to RIGHTS!”

Launched by Rights & Democracy in 2003, with the financial support of Foreign Affairs Canada, the objective of the network is to create spaces where students can discuss and organize activities related to human rights and democracy. There are currently Rights & Democracy Delegations, made up of students from all disciplines, in close to 40 Canadian universities, where professors provide support to develop new projects.

The Network is:

A variety of projects: During the 2004-2005 academic year, Network members implemented over 30 projects within their communities. Specifically, the students took action on issues related to the right to health, the role of pop music in promoting democracy and the situation of children affected by the conflict in Darfur, Sudan.

Sharing knowledge and training: Many initiatives have also benefited from the expertise of Rights & Democracy’s staff on issues such as the rights of indigenous peoples and women’s rights. In fact, many students have taken part in training activities offered by Network members on human rights and development, democratic transitions and human rights education.

Internships, grants and job opportunities: Many students have also been accompanied in their academic and professional paths. For instance, a graduate in education did an internship in children’s rights at UNESCO in Paris, and two co-Presidents of Delegations were offered summer jobs with the Network.

The Network continues to expand its actions in Canada and launched its first international project by twinning the Delegation at the Université de Moncton, in New Brunswick, with the Delegation at the Université de Ouagadougou, in Burkina Faso, on the occasion of the 10th Summit of the Francophonie last November.



Photo: Paul Theberge

Preparations for the project led by the Delegation of Université Laval, Sur la piste des réfugiés, which traces the journeys of refugees in various parts of the world. To find out more, visit: www.surlapistedesrefugies.com.



Photo: Jayme L. Poisson

In March 2005, our second annual national event, the “Mingler” for the Rights & Democracy Network, was held in Montreal, bringing together representatives of our Delegations from all regions of Canada in order to discuss their vision of the Network.

For more information about the Rights & Democracy Network, visit: www.droitsdemocratie.net.

Our Interns

Kigali, Banjul, Buenos Aires, Kuala Lumpur, Paris, Washington: these are just a few of the destinations of our 10 young interns participating in the Young Professionals International programme, administered by Foreign Affairs Canada. Selected from among over 200 candidates from all regions of the country, these young professionals worked on a variety of issues and with several organizations, including women’s rights in post-conflict situations with SEVOTA, the law on national security in Indonesia and its impact on civil society with Suaram, and indigenous rights with the coalition of human rights NGOs in Latin America. Rights & Democracy offers concrete support and expertise to its national, regional and international partners and offers young professionals the opportunity to acquire hands-on paid experience around the world and to become committed human rights advocates.

Rights & Democracy also receives interns during the university year. Fifteen students participated in our research work or our actions for university credit. Staff supervision of these students enabled them to acquire practical experience while Rights & Democracy benefited from over 500 days of work over the year.

Some of Our Partnerships with Canadian Coalitions

International Civil Liberties Monitoring Group, a Canada-wide coalition that monitors the implementation of anti-terrorist measures adopted by Canada. Canadian NGO Coalition on Human Rights in China, a coalition of Canadian organizations that promotes human rights in China primarily with regards to the UN Commission on Human Rights and Canada’s bilateral human rights dialogue with China.

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

Common Frontiers, a multi-sectoral working group that confronts, and proposes an alternative to the social, environmental and economic effects of economic integration in the Americas.

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

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

Trade and Investment Research Project, a think tank that develops analysis and conducts research in support of the intervention and lobbying work of civil society organizations in the area of international trade and investment agreements.

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

Rights & Democracy provided financial support to over 100 projects devoted primarily to human rights—especially in countries where these rights are flouted—in order to promote political change and build the capacity of institutions and programmes, particularly with partners in developing countries. For a description of the projects that received financial support from Rights & Democracy in 2004-2005, visit our Web site: www.dd-rd.ca.

Our Dialogue with the Canadian Government

During 2004-2005, Rights & Democracy was very present in both houses of Parliament and all political parties. We intervened before the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs with respect to the five-year review of Rights & Democracy. The purpose of this external evaluation, required by Foreign Affairs every five years, is to inform the Canadian Parliament of our activities and structure. After having examined the recommendations in this review, the Committee recommended that Parliament significantly increase Rights & Democracy's budget. We also intervened before the House of Commons Subcommittee on Human Rights, with the Burmese delegation from the government-in-exile. Lastly, we submitted two briefs to Parliament, the first on Canadian policy, entitled *Canadian Democracy at the Crossroads: The Need for Coherence and Accountability in Counter-Terrorism Policy*; and the second on international policy, entitled *Renewing Canada's Commitment to Human Rights: Strategic Actions for At Home and Abroad*.

Moreover, we strengthened our ties with Foreign Affairs Canada, the Canadian International Development Agency, the Department of Justice, Heritage Canada and the Privy Council, on issues including Canadian foreign policy, democratic development in developing countries, Canada's cooperation efforts in Africa, and the commitment of Canadian youth to human rights.

Our Recent Publications

Indigenous Rights Between the Two Decades, Warren Allmand, Kenneth Deer and Isabel Madariaga Cuneo, 2005.

Constitution Building and Federal Options in Iraq: The Kurdish Challenge, Report based on a seminar with Professors Brendan O'Leary and John McGarry, 2005.

The Right to Survive: Sexual Violence, Women and HIV/AIDS, Françoise Nduwimana, 2004.

Renewing Canada's Commitment to Human Rights: Strategic Action for At Home and Abroad, Iris Almeida and Marc Porret, Rights & Democracy, 2004.

Canadian Democracy at the Crossroads: The Need for Coherence and Accountability in Counter-Terrorism Policy and Practice, Iris Almeida and Marc Porret, Rights & Democracy, 2004.

Democratic Development and Civil Society Movements in Morocco: Analysis and Strategic Actions, under the direction of Rights & Democracy and Espace Associatif, Rabia Naciri, Mohamed Sghir Janjar and Mohamed Mouaquit, 2004.

Democracy, Human Rights and Islam in the Middle East and North Africa, Seminar Report, 2004.

Regional Economic Cooperation and Human Rights in Asia, Seminar Report, June 4-7, 2004, Olongapo City, Philippines, 2004.

Indigenous Women of the Americas, Rights & Democracy, 2004.

At the Cross-Roads of Conflict and Democracy: Women and Afghanistan's Constitutional Loya Jirga, Lauryn Oates and Isabelle Solon Helal, Rights & Democracy, 2004.

The Transition in the Democratic Republic of Congo: A Historic Opportunity, Philippe Tremblay, 2004.

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

OUR THEMES

Rights & Democracy organizes most of its programming activities around the following four core themes:

Democratic Development

Using a framework based on international human rights instruments, the Democratic Development team supports, assesses, and researches democratization processes in specific countries. Most of the programming undertaken is at the national level in Africa, Latin America, Asia and the Middle East, and is complemented by activities at the regional and international levels. The support provided by Rights & Democracy enables marginalized civil society organizations and democracy movements to influence public policy and national or regional institutions, and to advocate for norms/mechanisms that reinforce human rights. Support is also directed towards institutions that defend human rights and promote democratic development.

Activities for 2005-2006 include building new strategic partnerships with a coalition of Moroccan civil society organizations as well as the Nairobi-based Africa Democracy Forum; expanding activities with Middle East-based human rights organizations; supporting peace-building efforts in Haiti, Côte d'Ivoire, Togo, Sudan, and Africa's Great Lakes Region; encouraging pro-democracy movements in Burma, Mexico, and Guatemala; and strengthening regional human rights institutions such as the Inter-American System for the Protection of Human Rights and the African Commission on Human and People's Rights.

Rights of Indigenous Peoples

The Rights of Indigenous Peoples team works to defend and promote the individual and collective rights of indigenous peoples, in particular their right to self-determination and the protection of intellectual property. Its priorities include the adoption of the UN and Organization of American States (OAS) draft declarations on the rights of indigenous peoples, the implementation of laws and treaties, and the facilitation of dialogue between governments and indigenous peoples. Through its support of the Continental Network of Indigenous Women in the Americas (Enlace), the team facilitates the intervention of indigenous women on national and international issues of concern to them. In addition, it encourages and supports the participation of indigenous peoples in peace-building and consolidation, primarily in Colombia, and seeks to highlight their contribution to these processes. Lastly, the team also forges ties with other indigenous peoples around the world.

Women's Rights

The Women's Rights team facilitates women's leadership and participation in civil society. It defends and promotes the integration of women's human rights within the United Nations system, other international and regional organizations and national institutions. The team's work is rooted in the Beijing Platform for Action (1995-2005), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (1979) and the Declaration on Violence against Women (1993). The team has developed a gender-based research methodology and manuals to document violations of women's rights, and works in cooperation with partners on ending impunity on violence against women, especially within the context of armed conflicts. The primary objectives for the coming years are to ensure women's full contribution to peace-building processes, to seek accountability for gender crimes in transitional justice systems, and to build women's capacity to meet the challenges of fundamentalisms, militarism, and the prevailing security agenda.

Globalization and Human Rights

The Globalization and Human Rights team monitors policies and laws that govern economic integration to ensure that they do not undermine the protection and promotion of human rights. It works with Canadian and international non-governmental coalitions on key crosscutting issues such as the right to food. It pays particular attention to the impact on human rights of foreign investment, information/communications technologies and trade promotion policies (e.g., technology exports to China). In pursuing these initiatives, the team supports partnerships in Asia, the Americas and Canada, particularly in the context of regional integration mechanisms. It also engages in international advocacy on specific issues: the World Trade Organization agreement on agriculture, the Food and Agriculture Organization's Voluntary Guidelines on the Right to Food, the United Nations Commission on Human Rights related to economic, social and cultural rights and the World Bank. Currently, a human rights impact assessment tool for direct foreign investment is being developed within the theme of Globalization.

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, 2005

AUDITOR'S REPORT

INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRATIC DEVELOPMENT

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, 2005 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, 2005 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.



Nancy Y. Cheng, FCA
Assistant Auditor General
for the Auditor General of Canada

Ottawa, Canada
May 12, 2005

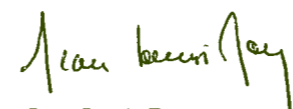
BALANCE SHEET AS AT MARCH 31

ASSETS	2005	2004
Current		
Term deposits (Note 4)	\$ 1,765,876	\$ 1,465,876
Accrued interest	15,383	2,753
Accounts receivable	48,411	101,270
Contributions receivable	116,195	127,923
Prepaid expenses	69,498	34,305
	2,015,363	1,732,127
Long Term		
Property and equipment (Note 5)	399,619	360,104
	\$ 2,414,982	\$ 2,092,231
LIABILITIES		
Current		
Bank overdraft	\$ 548,930	\$ 58,744
Accounts payable	148,427	206,860
Accrued salaries and vacations	340,072	369,515
Obligation under capital leases (Note 6)	25,069	10,933
Grants payable	125,000	181,273
Deferred contributions (Note 7)	453,322	314,444
	1,640,820	1,141,769
Long Term		
Deferred lease inducements	90,432	107,940
Obligation under capital leases (Note 6)	110,030	63,174
	200,462	171,114
Deferred capital funding (Note 8)	206,338	207,816
	2,047,620	1,520,699
EQUITY		
Equity	367,362	571,532
	\$ 2,414,982	\$ 2,092,231
Commitments (Note 11)		

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

Approved by:

K



Jean-Louis Roy
President of Rights & Democracy



Wayne MacKay
Acting Chairperson of the Board

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31

	2005	2004
Expenses (Note 9)		
Programmes and Activities		
Women's Rights	\$ 1,736,387	\$ 1,456,106
Democratic Development	1,644,001	1,526,718
Communication and Public Education	813,162	694,451
International Human Rights Advocacy	718,093	493,927
Rights of Indigenous Peoples	565,874	642,804
Globalization and Human Rights	469,310	675,738
Urgent Action and Important Opportunities	124,826	203,175
	6,071,653	5,692,919
General administration	637,551	622,874
Cost of operations	6,709,204	6,315,793
Revenues		
Contributions from the Government of Canada for specific projects (Note 10)	983,617	750,237
Other contributions (Note 10)	613,447	521,884
Interest	33,388	55,079
	1,630,452	1,327,200
Results of operations before funding from the Government of Canada	5,078,752	4,988,593
Funding from the Government of Canada		
Parliamentary appropriation – Core funding	4,803,692	4,764,408
Amortization of deferred capital funding (Note 8)	70,890	67,987
	4,874,582	4,832,395
Results of operations for the year	(204,170)	(156,198)
Equity, beginning of year	571,532	727,730
Equity, end of year	\$ 367,362	\$ 571,532

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

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31

	2005	2004
Cash provided by (used in) operating activities		
Results of operations for the year	\$ (204,170)	\$ (156,198)
Items not affecting cash		
Amortization of property and equipment	112,046	99,537
Amortization of deferred capital funding	(70,890)	(67,987)
	(163,014)	(124,648)
Decrease (increase) in accrued interest	(12,630)	3,390
Decrease (increase) in accounts receivable	52,859	(48,018)
Decrease (increase) in contributions receivable	11,728	(103,146)
Decrease (increase) in prepaid expenses	(35,193)	10,672
Increase (decrease) in accounts payable	(58,433)	92,148
Decrease in termination benefits	-----	(175,857)
Decrease in accrued salaries and vacations	(29,443)	(7,523)
Increase (decrease) in grants payable	(56,273)	173,773
Decrease in deferred lease inducements	(17,508)	(17,507)
Increase (decrease) in deferred contributions	138,878	(185,893)
	(169,029)	(382,609)
Cash provided by (used in) financing activities		
Parliamentary appropriation – capital funding	69,412	108,697
Obligation under capital leases	82,149	-----
Payments on obligation under capital leases	(21,157)	(9,514)
	130,404	99,183
Cash provided by (used in) investing activities		
Acquisition of term deposits	(3,811,329)	(2,345,664)
Redemption of term deposits	3,511,329	3,193,997
Acquisition of property and equipment	(69,412)	(108,697)
Acquisition under capital leases	(82,149)	-----
	(451,561)	739,636
Net change in bank overdraft	(490,186)	456,210
Bank overdraft, beginning of the year	(58,744)	(514,954)
Bank overdraft, end of the year	\$ (548,930)	\$ (58,744)

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

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS MARCH 31, 2005

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:

- support developmental programmes and activities for the benefit of developing countries;
- support programmes and activities for the benefit of countries other than developing countries; and
- foster and support research and education, discourse, the exchange of information and collaboration among people and institutions in Canada and other countries.

Rights & Democracy is exempt from any income taxes; it is registered as a charitable organization for the purpose of the *Income Tax Act*.

Financial provisions

For the purpose of supporting programmes and activities for the benefit of developing countries in accordance with the Act, Rights & Democracy is to be paid such amount as may be appropriated by Parliament. Rights & Democracy may also receive monies from sources other than the Government of Canada.

For the purpose of supporting programmes and activities for the benefit of countries other than developing countries, Rights & Democracy may, in addition to such monies as may be appropriated by Parliament for that purpose, receive and use monies provided to it from sources other than the Government of Canada.

2. Significant accounting policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles. Significant accounting policies follow.

a) Parliamentary appropriation

The parliamentary appropriation is received through the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade. The portion of the parliamentary appropriation used to finance the acquisition of property and equipment is recorded as deferred capital funding and amortized on the same basis and over the same period as the related property and equipment. The other portion of the appropriation is recorded in the statement of operations in the year for which it is approved.

b) Contributions

Rights & Democracy follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions. Contributions externally restricted are deferred and recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue when received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

c) Grant expenses

Grants are charged to operations in the year in which instalments are due, as approved by Rights & Democracy.

d) Term deposits

Term deposits are recorded at cost.

e) Property and equipment

Furniture and equipment and data processing equipment are recorded at cost and amortized on the straight-line basis at an annual rate of 20%. Leasehold improvements are recorded at cost and are amortized over the remaining term of the lease. Assets acquired by capital leases are recorded at the present value of the minimum lease payments and are amortized 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.

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, 2005 the term deposits have an average interest rate of 2.43% (2.90% in 2004) and an average term maturity of 365 days (334 days in 2004).

5. Property and equipment

	2005			2004
	Cost	Accumulated Amortization	Net	Net
Furniture and equipment	\$ 637,665	\$ 483,919	\$ 153,746	\$ 99,797
Data processing equipment	415,900	306,050	109,850	118,596
Leasehold improvements	226,350	90,327	136,023	141,711
	\$ 1,279,915	\$ 880,296	\$ 399,619	\$ 360,104

The above assets include equipment under capital leases for a total cost of \$167,950 (\$85,800 in 2004), less accumulated amortization of \$41,200 (\$17,553 in 2004).

6. Obligation 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 at a rate of interest varying from 9.5 to 14.15% per annum. The related obligations are paid over a 5-6 year lease term. Minimum lease payments totalling \$34,434 (\$20,856 in 2004) for the year ended March 31, 2005, including interest of \$13,278 (\$11,342 in 2004), were charged to results.

At March 31, 2005, the future minimum lease payments were:

	2006	\$ 39,757
	2007	39,757
	2008	39,757
	2009	39,703
	2010	14,772
Total future minimum lease payments		173,746
Less: imputed interest		(38,647)
		135,099
Short-term portion		(25,069)
		\$ 110,030

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:

	2005	2004
Deferred contributions, beginning of year	\$ 314,444	\$ 500,337
Amount recognized as revenue in the year (Note 10)	(172,084)	(477,281)
Canadian International Development Agency		
Afghan Women Project	-----	180,420
Inter-Pares		
National Health and Education Committee Project	847	6,451
Participation in the Beijing Platform	2,500	-----
Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade		
ICC Workshop in African Lusophone Countries	-----	45,000
Rights & Democracy Student Network	-----	54,469
IDRC		
Research Project	307,250	-----
Donations	365	5,048
Deferred contributions, end of year	\$ 453,322	\$ 314,444

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

Canadian International Development Agency		
Afghan Women Project	\$ 140,645	\$ 180,420
Girl Soldiers Research Project	-----	2,624
Inter-Pares		
National Health and Education Committee Project	847	25,284
Participation in the Beijing Platform	2,500	-----
Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade		
ICC Workshop in African Lusophone Countries	-----	45,000
Rights & Democracy Student Network	-----	54,469
IDRC		
Research Project	307,250	-----
Donations	2,080	6,647
	\$ 453,322	\$ 314,444

8. Deferred capital funding

	2005	2004
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 207,816	\$ 167,106
Parliamentary appropriation – capital funding	69,412	108,697
Amortization of deferred capital funding	(70,890)	(67,987)
Balance, end of year	\$ 206,338	\$ 207,816

9. Expenses

	2005			2004
	Programmes and Activities	General Administration	Total	Total
Projects	\$ 3,792,539	\$ -----	\$ 3,792,539	\$ 3,436,005
Salaries and employee benefits	1,543,436	360,951	1,904,387	1,840,639
Rent	141,545	43,446	184,991	160,662
Professional fees	128,334	55,445	183,779	208,198
Travel	127,821	6,552	134,373	117,251
Board fees and expenses	-----	118,407	118,407	117,788
Amortization of property and equipment	85,468	26,578	112,046	99,537
Cost of awards	104,926	-----	104,926	152,565
Information	76,764	7,843	84,607	95,770
Mail and telephony	31,912	8,259	40,171	40,311
Office expenses	23,710	6,137	29,847	29,789
Miscellaneous	15,198	3,933	19,131	17,278
	\$ 6,071,653	\$ 637,551	\$ 6,709,204	\$ 6,315,793

10. Contributions

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

	2005	2004
Other contributions for specific projects	\$ 578,287	\$ 487,410
Contributions from the Government of Canada for specific projects (1)	521,223	77,389
Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (1)		
International Youth Internship Programme	120,526	75,000
Rights & Democracy Student Network	200,000	145,531
General contributions	4,944	9,510
	1,424,980	794,840

Amount of deferred contributions recognized as revenue in the year (Note 7)

Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (1)		
International Youth Internship Programme	-----	277
ICC Workshop in African Lusophone Countries	45,000	-----
Rights & Democracy Student Network	54,469	-----
Shaler Adams Foundation		
Monitoring the Rwanda Tribunal Project	-----	24,521
Canadian International Development Agency (1)		
Research on Girls in the Military	2,624	66,977
Women's Rights in Afghanistan Fund	39,775	385,063
Inter-Pares		
National Health and Education Committee Project	25,284	-----
Donations	4,932	443
	172,084	477,281
	\$ 1,597,064	\$ 1,272,121

The composition of contributions as at March 31st is as follows:

Contributions from the Government of Canada (1)		
for specific projects	\$ 983,617	\$ 750,237
Other contributions	613,447	521,884
	\$ 1,597,064	\$ 1,272,121

11. Commitments

a) **Leases** - Rights & Democracy has entered into a lease for the rental of office space until 2010. The balance of the commitment under the lease is \$928,516. Minimum payments payable over subsequent years are as follows:

	2006	\$ 179,713
	2007	179,713
	2008	179,713
	2009	179,713
	2010	209,664
		\$ 928,516

b) **Grants** - As of March 31, 2005, Rights & Democracy has approved grants totaling \$75,000 in the coming years, under certain conditions.

12. Pension 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:

	2005	2004
Rights & Democracy	\$ 256,352	\$ 268,748
Employees	\$ 94,816	\$ 82,032



Rights & Democracy

International Centre for Human Rights
and Democratic Development

1001 de Maisonneuve Blvd East
Suite 1100
Montreal, Quebec H2L 4P9
CANADA
Telephone: (514) 283-6073
Fax: (514) 283-3792
E-mail: dd-rd@dd-rd.ca
Web site: www.dd-rd.ca

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