



IJCSL NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 8

JULY 2004

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION AND FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

HAITI—CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS CRITICIZE INTERIM COOPERATION FRAMEWORK (ICF)

In a meeting on 11 June 2004, dozens of Haitian civil society organizations met to analyze the joint government/multi-donor Interim Government program (known as [Interim Cooperation Framework ICF](#)). The CSOs entered into a [declaration](#) that highlights the shortcomings in the document, demands more citizen participation, and proposes that the “basic document produced by the ICF be widely distributed in Creole to and by grassroots organizations and networks so that they are able to make informed choices.”

PAKISTAN—FREEDOM OF INFORMATION RULES ADOPTED

According to [DAWN](#), the Government of Pakistan adopted the [Freedom of Information Rules 2004](#) on 21 June 2004. Under the rules applicants can acquire a photocopy of any public record document except information exempted under the [Freedom of Information Ordinance 2002](#), or other governmental instructions.

SOUTH AFRICA—NEW WEBSITE ON CIVILIAN OVERSIGHT OF POLICE LAUNCHED

A web site recently launched by the Open Society Foundation for South Africa and the Open Society Justice Initiative aims to serve as a tool to develop and support publicly accountable policing in South Africa. [“Police Accountability in SA](#) encourages public participation, provides information on police oversight, and hopes to strengthen civil society monitoring of police conduct. The site also provides [legislation updates](#) on police accountability.

UNITED STATES—UPDATE PUBLISHED FOR FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT GUIDE

The Office of the Information and Privacy at [US Department of Justice](#) has published a newly updated edition of its [Freedom of Information Act Guide](#) that describes basic procedures, provisions, and case law.

FISCAL MATTERS

UNITED STATES—CHANGE IN TAX LAWS FAVORING RELIGIONS REJECTED

A [proposed change](#) in tax laws has lost backing in the congress. The [provision](#) would have had the potential to allow clergy to become involved in partisan politics from their pulpits. The proposed changes were rebuffed by both liberal and conservative religious groups. [Americans United for Separation of Church and State](#), which had opposed the legislation, said that “Two sections of H.R. 4520, the [American Jobs Creation Act of 2004](#), deal not with jobs but with partisan politicking by churches.”



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UNITED STATES—HEARING HELD ON GOVERNANCE PROBLEMS AT TAX EXEMPT ORGANIZATIONS

On 22 June 2004 the [Senate Finance Committee](#) held a hearing on charity oversight and reform. The hearing, "[Charity Oversight and Reform: Keeping Bad Things from Happening to Good Charities](#)", provided Committee members with background on charity governance and activities. In his [written testimony](#), [Internal Revenue Service](#) Commissioner Mark W. Everson, acknowledged the valuable role of the majority of exempt organizations that are efficiently and successfully carrying out their goals and obligations, but noted that some organizations are trying to attain such purposes - like tax evasion - for which Congress never intended when it gave the tax-exemptions. The IRS would examine approximately 400 foundations to determine if philanthropic institutions are complying with tax laws. Finance Committee Chairman Charles Grassley (R-Iowa) noted that legislation that strengthens regulation at the federal and state levels, increases the responsibility of boards, imposes strict penalties for conflicts of interest and other failures to comply with tax laws, and enhances disclosure shall be introduced soon, possibly in the fall. Statements made by Senators and the written testimony of witnesses can be found on the [Finance Committee's web site](#). [Charitable Giving Legislation, Legislative background, and issues](#) can be read at the Government Relations and Legislation page of the Council on Foundations website.

FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION AND PEACEFUL ASSEMBLY

ARAB WORLD—CONFERENCE ON "DEMOCRACY AND REFORM" HELD IN QATAR

The Gulf Centre for Studies at [Qatar University](#) held a two-day seminar from 3-4 June 2004, entitled "Democracy and Reform." Over one hundred Arab politicians and thinkers from various Arab countries participated in the conference. The participants submitted the "[Doha Declaration](#)," demanding the Arab regimes to modify their constitutions to implement direct elections and accountability of the Head of the State, abolish all restrictive laws that obstruct freedoms for individuals, press, and media, and abolish laws restricting citizens rights to establish political parties, organizations, trade unions, professional associations and civil society organizations. The related conference papers and [Declaration in Arabic](#) are posted on the [Knowledge Society's web site](#).

ARMENIA—YEREVAN CITY ADMINISTRATION BANS PLANNED PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATION

On 1 June 2004 the Yerevan city administration [banned the peaceful demonstration](#) of the united opposition set for 4 June. The administration explained the refusal by the fact that criminal cases had been opened in connection with meetings held by the opposition before. The Opposition has decided to appeal the ban in court.



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NIGERIA—BILL TO AMEND THE TRADE UNIONS ACT INTRODUCED

President Olusegun Obasanjo has sent a Bill to the National Assembly that proposes changes in the Trade Unions Act. The bill seeks to decentralize the [Nigerian Labor Congress \(NLC\)](#). Among [several amendments](#) the bill requires that no trade union or registered federation of trade unions, by whatever name called, may embark on a strike action without a resolution approving the strike action, passed by at least two-third majority of the members of the union or federation of trade unions, in secret ballot, held at a meeting for that purpose.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

INTERNATIONAL---IFEX AND OTHERS HOLD ANNUAL MEETINGS IN AZERBAIJAN

The [International Freedom of Expression eXchange \(IFEX\)](#) held its 11th General Meeting in Baku, Azerbaijan, in mid-June. It brought together representatives of more than 80 organizations dedicated to free expression. Participants discussed the most pressing issues of the day, including Internet censorship, journalists' safety around the world, and the use by many governments of anti-terrorism laws to suppress free speech. Discussions also considered WSIS developments and the role of the Azeri government in suppressing freedom of expression. Other organizations held meetings around the time of the IFEX meeting, and details as well as links can be found on the [IFEX website](#).

ANGOLA—RAP MUSIC BECOMES A VOICE FOR DEMOCRACY

The [FINANCIAL TIMES](#) reported in its print edition for 15 June 2004 that rappers have become involved in politics through their music. John Reed's story suggests that rap musicians have raised the consciousness of ordinary Angolans about the need for more democracy and openness two years after the civil war ended. Rap music lyrics raise questions about the achievements of the current government and the low level of social and economic progress it has achieved. And opposition leaders of the Campaign for Democracy Angola have also encouraged the rappers, including them in protest marches and demonstrations.

CAMEROON—OSI FILES PETITION ON BEHALF OF RADIO STATION

In a press release issued on 22 June 2004, The [Open Society Institute Justice Initiative](#) stated that it has filed a petition with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights on behalf of Freedom FM, an independent radio station in Douala, Cameroon. The station submitted an application for a broadcast license in October 2002, but has not received it to date. In May 2003 police seized the station's studios and sealed off access to its broadcasting equipment, and the owners have been refused entry ever since. The Justice Initiative has argued that Cameroon's licensing laws and practices violate international broadcasting freedom standards and freedom of expression. It has also asked the Commission to adopt urgent measures requiring Cameroon to release Freedom FM's equipment and to allow it to operate, pending final resolution of the case.



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CHAD—COURT ISSUES DECISION THAT IS A VICTORY FOR PRESS FREEDOM

The Supreme Court of Chad delivered an [order in favor of the privately-owned community radio station](#) FM Liberté, which remained subject to government pressure in the past and was closed down on airing a report unfavorable to the President last year. The Court also ordered the government to pay US\$ 11,200 in damages.

CHINA—FREE AND OPEN INFORMATION SOURCE FOR CHINESE INTERNET USERS BLOCKED

[IDG News Service](#) reports [Chinese Wikipedia](#), an [online English-language](#) encyclopedia that is also available in several other languages and is a model of openness on the Internet in China, was temporarily blocked by Chinese Internet censors beginning on 3 June 2004.

EUROPE—INTERNATIONAL MEETING HELD ON RACISM ON THE INTERNET

The [OSCE](#) held [a conference focusing on racist, xenophobic and anti-Semitic propaganda on the Internet and hate crimes](#) in Paris on 16-17 June 2004. The participating states reiterated their commitment to promote tolerance and nondiscrimination and to combat hate crimes on the Internet. It was the first international meeting on this question, and more than 500 people took part. The meeting documents, session proceedings, and papers are [now available online](#).

GEORGIA—PARLIAMENT ENDORSES NEW LAW ON FREEDOM OF SPEECH

[Civil Georgia](#) reports that on 17 June 2004 the Parliament of Georgia adopted the [Law on Freedom of Speech](#) with 104 votes to 2. The new law provides for liability of the media owner instead of the journalist, and the burden of proof lies on the plaintiff.

IRAN—HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH CONDEMNS CRACKDOWNS ON FREE MEDIA

The [Human Rights Watch \(HRW\)](#) [released a report in early June](#) condemning the government of Iran for its persistent attempts to stifle the free press since April 2000. Since then, Iran's independent newspapers have been almost completely destroyed. Said Mortazavi, then the judge of Public Court Branch 1410, was the leading force behind the crackdown in its early years, directed mainly at newspapers and journals which had become critical voices for change. He was subsequently appointed to the powerful position of Tehran Chief Prosecutor, a post he holds today. The report demonstrates a nexus between the press closures that began in 2000, the systematic arrests of journalists, writers and intellectuals in the following years, and the treatment of political prisoners. With the newspapers closed, treatment of detainees worsened considerably in Evin prison and in detention centers operated clandestinely by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and the judiciary.



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KYRGYZSTAN—DRAFT AMENDMENTS TO DEFAMATION LAWS REJECTED

Kyrgyzstan's President presented [proposed draft Amendments in the defamation laws](#), but the proposals were rejected by the Parliament on 8 June 2004. The proposals were aimed to prevent frivolous law suits and to eliminate jail sentences for libel and slander.

RUSSIA—TRIAL FOR BLASPHEMY OPENS

Three human rights advocates were [put on trial because of a display that outraged leaders of the Russian Orthodox Church](#). The trial for blasphemy, which opened 15 June 2004, will determine whether or not a group of artists who took part in a recent exhibition at the Andrei Sakharov Museum intended through their work to "incite hatred or enmity" and/or to impugn the dignity of a group of persons based on their ethnicity and relation to religion, as spelled out in Article 282 of the Criminal Code.

SOUTH AFRICA—DISCUSSION INITIATED ON PLANNED AMENDMENTS TO MEDIA LAW

According to a [MISA](#) press release, the government plans to make certain changes in the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act 2002. The [amendments](#) to the Act were published by the 18 June 2004. Under the proposed amendments, penalties for unaccredited or suspended journalists who practice are fines, which are currently not a penalty, and imprisonment.

SOUTH AFRICA—PROHIBITION OF HATE SPEECH BILL 2004 PROPOSED BY DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

The SA government has published the draft [Prohibition of Hate Speech Bill](#) and is taking comments on it. The draft bill embarks upon criminalizing hate speech. [Critics](#) of the draft bill assert that it has potential to curb all freedom of expression and will [violate the constitutional provisions](#) pertaining to right of freedom of expression.

TURKEY—WAN ENCOURAGES PROGRESS ON PRESS FREEDOM

Turkey's efforts to change its laws in conformity with European standards on freedom of expression can set a positive example for Islamic countries where these rights are outlawed, says the [World Association of Newspapers \(WAN\)](#). In the last few years Turkey has passed reforms that limit the role of the military in politics, broaden freedom of expression and allow greater rights for minority Kurds. Last year, parliament also passed reforms to ensure that journalists are not required to disclose their sources to authorities. These reforms are being implemented as the country prepares to strengthen its application to join the European Union. For more information on free expression see [Writers in Prison Committee of International PEN](#).

ZIMBABWE—ANOTHER INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER SHUT DOWN

Government-appointed Media and Information Commission (MIC) [shut down and cancelled the registration certificate of Africa Tribune Newspapers](#) (ATN) in June. It was alleged to have violated Section 67, and its cancellation was carried out in terms of



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Section 71 (1) (a) of the [Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act](#) (AIPPA). The ATN, which published the two tribunes, merged them in one paper “The Tribune” published on Friday. ATN had failed to inform the MIC about this merger. The closure of the paper has been heavily [criticized](#) by many.

FREEDOM OF RELIGION AND BELIEF

ANGOLA—PARLIAMENT PASSES LAW ON FREEDOM OF CONSCIENCE, WORSHIP, AND RELIGION

The Angola Parliament recently passed the [Law on Freedom of Conscience, Worship, and Religion](#) reports the [Angola Press on-line edition](#). The law provides for equal treatment of all religions as well as citizens’ rights to privacy regarding their religious beliefs. Under the new law, the religious organizations still must fulfill several administrative requirements and laws and they also must uphold public order in all their activities.

EUROPE—EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS ALLOWS HEADSCARF BAN

The [European Court of Human Rights](#) ruled that the Turkish [state had the right to ban the headscarf](#) to secure the principle of division of religion and state. The Court rejected an appeal by a Turkish student who was barred from attending Istanbul University Medical School because her headscarf violated the official dress code. Bans issued in the name of the separation of church and state could be considered “necessary in a democratic society,” said the court in its [judgment](#) of 29 June 2004. [Human Rights Watch](#) has criticized the ruling and urged the Turkish government to lift the headscarf ban. The student claimed that the headscarf ban violated her freedoms of thought, conscience, and religion under the European Convention on Human Rights.

RUSSIA—JEHOVAH’S WITNESSES BANNED FROM ALL ACTIVITY IN MOSCOW

The Moscow City Court [upheld a ruling on 16 June 2004](#) by a lower court banning all activity by the Jehovah’s Witnesses in Moscow. The ban, which strips the Jehovah’s Witness of their legal status and prohibits organized activity within Moscow, went into effect immediately. A lawyer for the Jehovah’s Witness stated that they will take the case to the European Court of Human Rights now that the appeal process has ended in Russia. The case began in 1998 and is the first time a religion has been banned under the Russia’s 1997 law on religion. [Forum 18](#) has a complete report on the proceedings. For an in-depth report on the effect of the 1997 law on new religions, please see [Volume 1, Issue 2 of IJCSL](#).

SRI LANKA—PARLIAMENT APPROVES ANTI-CONVERSION BILL

The Sri Lanka Parliament has approved the Anti-Conversion Bill prohibiting forcible conversion of religion. Before it takes effect as Law, the government’s legal draftsmen will revise the [Act for the Protection of Religious Freedom](#) that was approved 18 June



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2004. The Act provides for the “prohibition of conversion to another religion forcibly or by use of force or inducement, or by fraud, or by unethical means or in any other manner as well as to provide for matters connected or incidental there unto.” Quoting Compass Direct, [The Christian Post](#) reports that “if it becomes law, Sri Lanka will break with several international conventions, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights which guarantees the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion.” For analyses and background history of the Bill, read the article online at [BP News](#).

TURKMENISTAN—ADVENTISTS RECEIVE STATE REGISTRATION

[Forum 18 News Service](#) reports the [Seventh Day Adventists](#) were given state registration on 1 June 2004. The Seventh Day Adventists is the first religious group to be registered under the new state registration rules in Turkmenistan. The President recently passed a decree revoking the criminalization of an unregistered religious activity, but it is still a de facto criminal offence in the Turkmenistan.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

ETHIOPIA—NEW DEVELOPMENTS TOWARD NGO/CSO LEGISLATION DISCUSSED

The Task Group and the drafting team within the Ministry of Justice are working together to finalize the draft NGO/CSO legislation in Ethiopia. They have recently published the 2004 [activity report on developments in the draft](#). More documents on the draft legislation can be viewed [on CRDA's web site](#).

EUROPE—NEW FOUNDATION ENTITY PROPOSED AT EFC MEETING

The European Foundation Centre (EFC) EU Committee and its Legal and Tax Task Forces have produced a first proposal for the development of a European legal instrument for foundations. [This proposal for a European statute for foundations](#) was shared with EFC members during their Annual General Assembly (AGA) at the EFC's 15th AGA and Conference, “Foundations for Europe: The Athens Agora – Bridging Civilisations and Culture,” held 30 May - 1 June, 2004 in Athens, Greece. A European statute for foundations could become the appropriate legal tool for funders to perform their work and operations across Europe. The draft currently foresees that a newly created European Foundation (EF) would be registered and supervised at the European level. It would be required to conduct activities in at least two Member States and have a minimum initial endowment of €50,000. While this might inhibit smaller European NPOs from choosing the EF legal form, that was not considered relevant in the discussion at the meeting.

MALAWI—NEW WEBSITE POSTED WITH DETAILS ON NGO REGISTRATION

[A new website was launched on 29 June 2004 in Malawi](#), which gives details of how to register an NGO there. The site refers to the 2000 NGO Act, the legislation that deals with the existence of NGOs, and it has links to that and other important information,



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including the registration process for both national and international NGOs with CONGOMA and the Malawi NGO Board.

MEXICO—QUESTIONS RAISED ABOUT GOVERNANCE AT FOUNDATION SET UP BY FIRST LADY

The [Vamos México Foundation](#), established by First Lady Marta Sahagún de Fox in October 2001, is expected to release its annual report and audited accounts in a few days. Questions have been raised by the financial oversight of the foundation, not only by the Financial Times (FT), but also by people involved in Mexican philanthropy in various capacities. According to a story by Sara Silver published in the 15 June 2004 print edition of the FT, the overhead percentage for Vamos México is about 56%, as opposed to the 10% recommended by the [Mexican Center for Philanthropy](#) (CEMEFI). The investigation conducted by the FT, beginning in January 2004, also discloses other possible irregularities and raises further questions that have not been answered. [EI Universal](#) online edition of 17 June 2004 also reports the probe story.

SAUDI ARABIA—GOVERNMENT CLOSES AL-HARAMAIN; NEW CHARITY OVERSIGHT COMMISSION FORMED

[According to a Saudi Embassy Press Release from 2 June 2004](#), the governments of Saudi Arabia and the United States once again have come together to make designations to the United Nations 1267 Sanctions Committee to add five entities to its consolidated list of financiers of terrorism. The five designated organizations are located in the Netherlands, Albania, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and Ethiopia and are offices or former offices of the Al-Haramain Islamic Foundation. In addition, the Saudi government is dissolving the Riyadh-based Al-Haramain Islamic Foundation, along with other Saudi charities and committees that used to operate abroad. The assets of these entities will be folded into the Saudi National Commission for Relief and Charity Work Abroad.

TIMOR-LESTE—WORKSHOP HELD ON ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR CIVIL SOCIETY

On 29 June 2004 a workshop was held in Dili, Timor-Leste, entitled “Promoting an Enabling Environment for Civil Society.” Sponsored by UNDP, the workshop was attended by representatives of local and international NPOs, government officials, academicians, and members of the diplomatic community. The first presentation, a discussion by local experts of the freedom of association under Timorese law, laid the groundwork for later panels. These included discussions of the CIVICUS CSI Index and the OSI Guidelines on Good Practices for Laws Affecting Civic Organizations (authored by ICCSL founders Leon Irish and Karla Simon, together with Robert Kushen of OSI.). The workshop concluded with an in-depth analysis of the “NGO Regulation” which had been drafted for UNTAET in 2000. Further information on this workshop and follow-on activities can be obtained by contacting Prof. Simon at simon@law.edu.

UZBEKISTAN—NEW LEGISLATION AFFECTING NGOS CRITICIZED



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According to testimony by Martha Brill Olcott of the [Carnegie Endowment for International Peace](#) before the U. S. Helsinki Commission on 24 June 2004, the current legislation for NGOs in Uzbekistan is much too controlling. Her statement notes that “the new law on non-governmental organizations seems an unfortunate step backward. It gives the government of Uzbekistan an ability to block foreign funding for non-governmental organizations, and has forced foreign NGO's to seek re-registration. Not all foreign funded NGOs have managed to gain re-registration, including most prominently the Open Society Institute.”

ZIMBABWE—BILL TO LIMIT POLITICAL ACTIVITIES OF NGOs AND CHURCHES EXPECTED

A new Bill introducing a Code of Conduct for churches and NGOs is expected to be introduced in the Zimbabwe Parliament in July. According to government statements, the bill is aimed at seeing that churches and NGOs do not provoke the public to oppose the government. It also aims to require that they carefully separate their humanitarian assistance activities and political activities. The bill “will allow government to have greater influence in the operations of NGOs and churches” according to the [Zimbabwe Independent online edition](#) of 25 June 2004.

MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

INTERNATIONAL— NEW HUMAN RIGHTS SEARCH ENGINE AND DATABASE LAUNCHED [HURIDOCs](#), a network of human rights organizations and activists, installed a highly accurate and global enterprise search platform on 7 June 2004. The platform is to power [HURISEARCH](#), a human rights search engine providing human rights information published by hundreds of non-governmental organizations (NGO) worldwide.

INTERNATIONAL—UN LAUNCHES FINDINGS OF SG’S CIVIL SOCIETY PANEL

On 21 June 2004 the findings of the Secretary General’s Panel of Eminent Persons on UN-Civil Society Relations were released in New York. The findings reflect discussions at a large number of consultation meetings, held between summer 2003 and March 2004, in many places around the world. Although the recommendations made by the panel have yet to be reviewed by the Member States and within the UN system, they represent a good first step toward creating a better functioning process of UN-civil society relations. **IJCSL** will cover issues related to the report in more depth in the future.

MALDIVES—PRESIDENT PROMISES CONSTITUTIONAL REFORMS TO STRENGTHEN HUMAN RIGHTS

[The President’s Office](#) reported that on 9 June 2004, the president vowed sweeping [reforms to strengthen fundamental rights](#) by establishing constitutionally mandated Human Rights Commission in Maldives. Several other reform measures were proposed,



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including the right of the citizens to vote on the [constitution](#), and provision to allow the formation and functioning of political parties.

MEXICO—NEW CEMEFI WEBSITE LAUNCHED

The new website of the Centro Mexicano para la Filantropia (CEMEFI) contains [an updated section on legal and fiscal information](#). Access to the information in both the Spanish and the English language sections is much easier and better organized. The site serves as a major resource for legal and fiscal information affecting NPOs in Mexico.

MOROCCO—MINISTRY OF HUMAN RIGHTS ABOLISHED

The [Ministry of Human Rights has recently been abolished](#) by the Moroccan government authorities. The ministry was a key governmental institution to collaborate and maintain interaction with non-governmental organizations reported the Arab Program For Human Rights Activists ([APHRA](#)) in its press release opposing the move. .

TURKEY—EUROPEAN UNION WILL ASSESS TURKEY’S PERFORMANCE TOWARDS HUMAN RIGHTS IMPROVEMENTS

The [Human Rights Education Associates](#) (HREA) reported on [15 June 2004](#) that though Turkey has made some noteworthy initial reforms in human rights, including the freedom of expression and assembly, considerable additional efforts guaranteeing long lasting impact are still required. Human rights organizations who met the Turkish government in early June stressed on urgent and timely improvements on human right reforms. [Turkey is a candidate country](#) in the EU, and has not yet been permitted to start negotiations due to concerns about its human rights record and about the involvement of the military in Turkish politics. Formal talks to join the [European Union](#) will begin in December which largely depends upon satisfying the fundamental criteria of democracy and human rights.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BOOK ANNOUNCEMENT—NEW BOOK ANALYZES MEDIA FREEDOM IN THE ARAB WORLD

E-mail saeda@nol.com.jo for more information on the new book “Freedom Fries: Fried Freedoms, Arab Satellite Channels Struggle Between State Control and Western Pressure, Who wants media freedoms in the Arab countries?”

CALL FOR PAPERS—RIGHTS-BASED APPROACHES TO DEVELOPMENT

IDPM is organizing a conference “[The Winners and Losers from Rights-Based Approaches to Development](#)” from 21-22 February 2005. [Call for papers](#) is now open. The last date for submission of abstracts is 1 August and 1 December for full papers.

CONFERENCE—GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT AND THE RENAISSANCE OF CIVIL SOCIETY



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[Commonwealth Association of Non Governmental Organizations](#) (CANGO) will hold its 2004 conference in Johannesburg, South Africa from 28 July – 1 August. The theme of the conference is “Global Development and The Renaissance of Civil Society.” Information on participation and registration is on [CANGO's web site](#).

[THE HUMAN RIGHTS TRUST OF SOUTHERN AFRICA \(SAHRIT\) IS OFFERING ITS REGIONAL COURSE ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS](#) from July to September 2004 in Harare, Zimbabwe. The course is meant for experts, supporters, researchers, activists, defenders and trainers to expand their wisdom and further broaden their human rights expertise for the promotion and protection of economic, social and cultural rights at national, regional and international levels.

[THE INSTITUTE FOR DEVELOPMENT POLICY AND MANAGEMENT UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER, UK WILL CONVENE A CONFERENCE ON “Reclaiming Development? Assessing the Contribution of Non-Governmental Organizations to Development Alternatives”](#) from 27-29 June 2005. Participants will come from academic, activist and policy backgrounds. The last date to submit paper abstracts is 15 November 2004. The conference aims to “analyze the contribution of NGOs to the nature and direction of political, economic and social change.”

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