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ANTI-TERRORISM LEGISLATION

ETHIOPIA—ANTI-TERRORISM BILL ENDORSED

The Ethiopian parliament has endorsed an anti-terrorist bill, making the country one of the few states in Africa to have such a law. According to a news article published by [ETHIO POLITICS](#), the legislation is reported to have borrowed from regional and international experiences and provisions for the fight against terrorism.

GERMANY—NEW ANTI-TERRORISM BILL PASSED

Germany's lower house of parliament, the Bundestag, has approved a new [law](#) expanding the federal police agency's power to conduct online and telephone surveillance, according to a news article published by the [ASSOCIATED PRESS](#). A judge's order is, however, required before the police undertake surveillance measures. The bill is expected to easily pass the upper house of the parliament and come into force by January 2009.

NORTHERN IRELAND—NEW ANTI-TERRORISM MEASURES APPROVED

New anti-terrorism measures proposed by the British government have received the support of all parties in the Northern Ireland Assembly, according to a news article published by [RTE NEWS](#). Some of the proposals, dealing with money laundering, overlap with the responsibilities exercised by the devolved administrations in Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland.

UNITED STATES—MUSLIM CHARITY FOUND GUILTY OF FUNDING TERRORISM

In a retrial of the Texas-based [Holy Land Foundation for Relief and Development](#) – a Muslim charity -- and five of its former leaders, the government was successful in obtaining convictions of all defendants for funding the Palestinian militant group Hamas, designated a terrorist group in the US, reported [BBC NEWS](#). The group was accused of giving more than \$12m to support Hamas. The Holy Land group was convicted on 32 counts. A sentencing date has yet to be announced. The convicted individuals and the charity plan to appeal against the verdict. A previous trial of Holy Land and its leaders, covered in the [November 2007 issue of IJCSL-N](#), ended in some confusion, with the jury deadlocked, prompting a mistrial verdict and a subsequent retrial.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION AND FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

BERMUDA—GOVERNMENT PREPARES DRAFT FOI LAW

Government lawyers are in the process of drafting a freedom of information law. According to a news article published by [THE ROYAL GAZETTE](#), the time frame for the completion has not yet been set out, but once the draft of draft of the Public Access to Information (PATI) legislation is completed it will be sent to the cabinet for approval in the House of Assembly. The United Bermuda Party has been calling for freedom



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of information legislation for several years and included it as an election pledge in its last manifesto.

CANADA—ALBERTA’S INFORMATION COMMISSIONER DENOUNCES PROPOSED ROYALTY LEGISLATION

Alberta’s Information and Privacy Commissioner is raising an alarm over the government’s proposed royalty legislation, contending one of its provisions would deprive Albertans the right to access information about the oil and gas resources they own, according to a news article published by [CALGARY HERALD](#). The proposed changes to the Mines and Minerals Act would prohibit the public for five years from learning specifics on how royalties are calculated and how much individual oil and gas producers are paying. If passed, the legislation would override the province’s FOI legislation.

LIBERIA—FOI AWARENESS CAMPAIGN KICKS OFF

With the support of other stakeholders, the Liberia Coalition for Free Expression has begun an advocacy campaign and series of activities including consultations with civil society organizations, according to a news article published by [THE NEWS](#). The campaign will discuss the draft Freedom of Information (FOI) Law and its implementation. The Freedom of Information awareness campaign is part of a broader project to support the ongoing media reform process in the country. The draft Freedom of Information Act is currently before the National Legislature.

MALTA—PROPOSED FOI LAW SAID TO CONTAIN TOO MANY EXEMPTIONS AND OTHER RESTRICTIVE FEATURES

The proposed law on freedom of information contains too many exemptions and other restrictive features that will dilute the right to access, opposition MPs are quoted as having said. A news article published by [MALTA TODAY](#) states that the proposed law will only afford the right to access to documents to anyone who has been a resident in Malta for five years. This definition of eligibility renders many people, such as EU citizens and migrants who haven’t lived in Malta for five years, ineligible to access information. Documents held by constitutionally-appointed bodies, such as the Electoral Commission, the Employment Commission, the Public Service Commission, the Office of the Attorney General, the National Audit Office, the Security Service, or the Broadcasting Authority are also exempt from the law.

SCOTLAND—DISCUSSION PAPER PUBLISHED SEEKING VIEWS ON EXTENDING SCOPE OF FOI ACT

[eGOV MONITOR](#) reports that the government has launched a consultation paper on extending the scope of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act to more organizations has been published. The paper seeks views on extending the Act to cover: contractors who provide services that are a function of a public authority; registered social landlords; and local authority trusts or bodies set up by local authorities. The [Freedom of Information \(Scotland\) Act 2002](#) provides significant and important rights allowing access to recorded information. The Act came into



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force on 1 January 2005 and provides a statutory right of access to information held by Scottish public authorities.

SPAIN—CITY COUNCIL OF TORREVIEJA ANNOUNCES NEW ON-LINE SYSTEM FOR CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

The City Council of Torrevieja has devised an on-line system which will allow citizens to air their views in relation to the political, social or economic aspects of their community, without the need to travel to the Town Hall. According to a news article published by [TOWN ROUND NEWS](#), in order to benefit from use of the new on-line Citizen's Attention service, users must first log in and register their details on the relevant questionnaire, before they receive an email to activate the account. The system is expected to become a fundamental channel of communication between citizens and public institutions throughout the area, where they might make appointments, register complaints and raise proposals that will then arrive directly at the doors of the City Council.

UNITED KINGDOM—PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING TOOLKIT LAUNCHED

The [Participatory Budgeting Unit](#) – a project of Church Action on Poverty -- has launched the first [Participatory Budgeting Toolkit](#) for the UK. The purpose of the toolkit is to provide local authorities, other statutory agencies, voluntary groups and residents with a 'how to' guide on participatory budgeting (PB). The toolkit is divided into two sections. The first section provides background and information on PB including benefits, risks, challenges, PB models in the UK, history of PB, and the policy context. The second section gives step by step guide to implement a PB process for 2 different models. Additional resources developed by PB pilots and practitioners are also included to help with PB project.

UNITED STATES—

- **FUNNY VIDEO ON HOW TO FILE A FOIA REQUEST RELEASED**

According to a [blog](#) posted on [POST STAR](#), Rob Heidrick, a graduate student at Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University, has created a video that puts a little fun into seeking information from the federal government. For those interested in obtaining information from the federal government but don't quite know how, Heidrick has created this funny video that gives citizens pointers on what to do and what not to do when filing a FOIA request. It is a serious subject approached in a humorous way. Here is the link for the video: <http://shallmakenolaw.com/2008/03/03/the-foia-and-you-how-to-file-a-freedom-of-information-request/>

- **DEWEY-HUMBOLDT TOWN COUNCIL CONSIDERS ADOPTING CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PLAN**

According to a news article published by [THE DAILY COURIER](#), the Dewey-Humboldt Town Council is considering adopting a Citizen Participation Plan, thus enabling residents get involved in the town's preparations for drafting a new



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General Plan. [Dewey-Humboldt](#) is located in the high desert of Northern Arizona and is 85 miles north of Phoenix.

FISCAL MATTERS

CANADA—CHARITIES AND NONPROFITS PROPOSE MEASURES TO HELP CANADIANS AND COMMUNITIES DURING ECONOMIC DOWNTURN

In an [open letter](#) written to Prime Minister, Stephen Harper, charities and nonprofits urged the Federal Government to maintain existing levels of funding and provide special giving incentives to help Canadians and Communities during Economic Downturn. An [IMAGINE CANADA media release](#) states that the letter, which was published in select newspapers across the country on 21 November 2008, urged the Prime Minister to consider the important role of charities and nonprofits in assisting Canadians and communities, particularly during periods of economic hardship. The letter comes as the Government prepares to release its Economic Statement and is endorsed by dozens of CEOs and volunteer Chairs of many of Canada's well-known charities and nonprofits.

UNITED STATES—PREDICTIONS MADE FOR LOSSES AT MANY CHARITIES

A [Wall Street Journal article](#) quoted Paul Light, a professor at New York University's Wagner School of Public Service as saying "I think we're going to see a substantial number go under." He went on to comment, "There's nobody on Capitol Hill who's been talking about rescuing the nonprofit sector." The article also discusses the reduction in wealth of many large charitable donors, who have said they will decrease their giving this year and next. On the other hand, Teresa DeCrescenzo published an [op-ed in the 1 December 2008 issue of the Los Angeles Times](#) suggesting the importance of continued funding for important charities like the one of which she is Executive Director.

FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION AND PEACEFUL ASSEMBLY

CANADA—ONTARIO COURT OF APPEAL HOLDS THAT ONTARIO FARM WORKERS HAVE RIGHT TO FORM UNIONS

Farm workers in Ontario now have the right to form unions, according to a news article published by [THE WINDSOR STAR](#). The Ontario Court of Appeal ruled that the related provisions of Ontario's Agricultural Employees Protection Act, which currently denies Ontario's thousands of agricultural workers from organizing, violates their right to freedom of association under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Declaring the AEPA invalid, the court ordered the government to provide agricultural workers with sufficient protections to enable them to exercise their right to freedom of association. The court gave the province 12 months to create legislation that allows farms workers to join unions.



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GLOBAL—FREEDOM HOUSE REPORT INDICATES DOWNTURN IN RIGHT OF ASSOCIATION IN MORE THAN 20% OF COUNTRIES

More than 20 percent of the world's countries are experiencing a disturbing reversal in freedom of association, according to a new Freedom House report entitled "[Freedom of Association Under Threat](#)." The report examines the increasingly sophisticated tactics authoritarians are using to restrict nongovernmental organizations, human rights groups and independent trade unions. A [FREEDOM HOUSE'S PRESS RELEASE](#) states that the report examines freedom of association worldwide between 2004-2007 by analyzing data from Freedom in the World, Freedom House's annual survey of political rights and civil liberties. The new report also provides in-depth reports on 12 countries where associational rights are particularly threatened.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

AFRICA—RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH PROTOCOL ON FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION ADOPTED DURING NGO FORUM AT THE 44TH SESSION OF THE ACHPR

In a resolution adopted at the end of the NGOs Forum Participation at the 44th Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights in Abuja, the delegates urged the African Union (AU) should seriously consider establishing an additional Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights. The purpose of the Protocol would be to foster greater effect and meaning for the African Charter article on freedom of expression so as to forestall the enactment of repressive media and freedom of expression laws by member states. More details on resolution are available at [SW RADIO AFRICA](#) website.

CANADA—ONTARIO COURT OF APPEAL OVERTURNS OAKVILLE'S ATTEMPT TO RESTRICT USE OF BILLBOARDS

In [Vann Media Group Inc. v. The Corporation of the Town of Oakville](#), the Ontario Court of Appeal found that portions of [Oakville's](#) existing [sign bylaw](#) regulating billboards were an infringement on the right to freedom of expression that could not be justified under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. According to a news article published by [OAKVILLE TODAY](#), the Court of Appeal struck down part of an earlier judgment that quashed the entire [sign bylaw](#), and also overturned an earlier order requiring that the Town grant permits to Vann Media for 21 billboard signs. The Court has given the Town six months to draft new restrictions that appropriately balance the Town's concerns for the safety and character of the community with freedom of expression rights. The decision takes effect in six months, which gives the town time to seek a further appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada.

CZECH REPUBLIC—DRAFT PENAL CODE SAID TO RESTRICT FREEDOMS OF SPEECH AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION

The bill introducing new penal code in the Czech Republic is alleged to curtail freedom of speech and access to information. According to a news article published



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by [PRAGUE DAILY MONITOR](#), the critics say the bill, which the Czech lower house passed in early November would markedly limit the media in referring to crimes. The critics object that apart from the victims, the bill protects the perpetrators of crime as well. The draft penal order and penal code bans the publishing of information from recorded police wiretappings. The planned legislation was recently criticized by the European Association of Newspaper Publishers (ENPA) and by the Czech Syndicate of Journalists. They, too, condemned the ban on the publishing of wiretappings.

EGYPT—HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATION DENOUNCES COURT DECISION ON MEDIA BAN IN COURTROOM

The Arabic Network for Human Rights Information has denounced decision of president of criminal court in South Cairo that banned media publication and access to the courtroom for reporting on the proceedings of a trial of a top tycoon accused of killing a Lebanese singer, according to a news article published by [afrol News](#). ANHRI demanded that the Egyptian government respect freedom of press and freedom of opinion and expression. The organization also called on the government to maintain transparency and fulfill its constitutional, legal and international commitments that provide for protection of these freedoms.

MOROCCO—FRENCH MAGAZINE BANNED FOR ALLEGEDLY INSULTING ISLAM

The Moroccan government has banned an issue of the French magazine L'Express International, claiming it insults Islam. According to a news article published by [ALARABIYA](#), the cover story of the Oct 30- Nov 5 2008 issue of the magazine – “The Jesus-Mohammad Shock,” compared Islam and Christianity and featured side-by-side portraits of Jesus and Mohammad, whose face was covered by a white veil in the Moroccan edition in a nod to local customs, but left uncovered in the French. The magazine was banned under article 29 of the Kingdom’s press code which allows the government to shut down or ban any publication deemed to offend Islam or the King. The government authorities, however, did not specify the offending material in the article.

NETHERLANDS—NEW LAW TO PROTECT JOURNALISTS’ SOURCES PROPOSED

The Ministry of Justice has proposed a new law to safeguard the rights of journalists to protect their sources, according to Ministry [press release](#). The proposed law extends the right to bloggers as well as traditional reporters. It is expected to be enacted sometime next year.

SAUDI ARABIA—CLERIC ISSUES FATWA AGAINST ARAB TELEVISION STATION OWNERS

A news article published the [AL JAZEERA](#) reports that a Saudi cleric, Sheikh al-Lihedan, recently issued a Fatwa (religious decree) saying it is permissible to kill the owners of television networks broadcasting “depravation and debauchery...if their evil cannot be easily removed through simple sanctions.” Sheikh al-Lihedan is the chief of the Supreme Judiciary Council, the highest tribunal rank in the kingdom.



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UNITED STATES—

- **JUSTICES GRAPPLE WITH QUESTION OF TEN COMMANDMENTS MONUMENT AS FREE SPEECH ISSUE**

The U.S. Supreme Court justices heard arguments in a case that could set the standard for how cities across the nation deal with religious monuments and symbols in public squares. The Utah city of Pleasant Grove permitted placement of a Ten Commandments monument in the city's Pioneer Park, but [refused](#) to let an small religious organization called Summum erect a marker of its religious principles. According to a news article published by [NPR](#), the city contends that just because it accepted a privately-donated Ten Commandments monument for a public park, it does not have to accept a monument from a little-known religious group called Summum. The Summum religious group's lawyer, Pamela Harris, argued that in public parks government cannot accept one privately donated monument but refuse another monument because of its message. According to a news article posted on [LAW.COM](#), most justices during oral argument seemed to oppose the idea that by accepting one, Pleasant Grove City had to accept the other because of the First Amendment's bar against content-based speech discrimination by the government. The Supreme Court will rule in coming months. The ruling could guide policy for placement of monuments and markers nationwide.

- **SUPREME COURT TO RULE ON CAMPAIGN FILM**

On 14 November 2008, the Supreme Court agreed to hear an appeal in [Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission](#) concerning the constitutionality of a federal campaign finance ban as applied to a critical movie about Sen. Hillary Clinton when she was running for Democratic presidential nomination. A news article published by [SCOTUS BLOG](#) explains the case in more detail.

FREEDOM OF RELIGION AND BELIEF

KYRGYZSTAN—RESTRICTIVE RELIGION LAW PASSED

The Kyrgyz Parliament has passed a new religion law limiting the registration of religious groups to those with 200 or more members and introducing state control over financing and religious education, according to a news article posted by [INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE](#). Under the new law, proselytism would be strongly curtailed and faith organizations will be obliged to disclose financial information to the authorities. The law includes a ban on private religious teaching at all levels of education — outlawing private religious schools — while providing for the inclusion of religious education in public schools. The dissemination of religious literature in public places will also be prohibited. Some 80 percent of the population in Kyrgyzstan consists of Muslims, with Orthodox Christians (17 percent). For previous coverage on the developments on religion law in Kazakhstan, see the [IJCSL-Newsletter](#) at the [ICCSL](#) website.



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RUSSIA—MINISTRY PREPARES LIST OF RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATION TO BE SHUT DOWN

The Ministry of Justice has prepared a list of 56 centralized religious organizations that are earmarked for court liquidation because of failures to comply fully with the terms of the registration laws. A news article published by [FORUM 18 NEWS SERVICE](#) states that over half of all centralized religious organizations in Russia belong to the Russian Orthodox Church but none among them is on the list.

UNITED NATIONS—SAUDI ARABIA PRESIDES AT U.N. CONFERENCE ON RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE

Saudi Arabia, the oil-rich Islamic Kingdom that forbids the public practice of other religious faiths, presided over a two-day U.N. conference on religious tolerance that brought together representatives from 80 countries to overcome religious and cultural divisions, according to a news article published by [THE CHRISTIAN POST](#). The conference was sponsored by Saudi Arabia. The Kingdom's leadership role in the conference made representatives and human rights groups question the amount of progress the gathering would yield.

UNITED STATES –

- **NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS URGES NEW MEANS OF PROTECTING SACRED PLACES**

In a [resolution](#) passed during its [65th annual convention](#), the [National Congress of American Indians](#) urged the U.S. Congress to create a statute that would protect Native American sacred places and burial grounds from the onslaught of development, intrusion, and desecration and to strengthen existing laws to protect Native Americans' freedom of religion. The American Indian Religious Freedom Act was enacted into law 30 years ago in 1978 to protect the religious freedom of Native people. However, the Supreme Court ruled 20 years ago that neither the Act, nor the U.S. Constitution, provided for a course of action to truly protect Native Americans right to worship in their traditional manner.

- **CRIMINAL ACTIVITY TARGETING RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS THAT SUPPORTED PROPOSITION 8 CONDEMNED**

The [Anti-Defamation League](#) denounced the recent spate of vandalisms that have occurred at religious institutions across the state in response to the passage of Proposition 8. According to a news article published by [PR NEWS](#), the ADL statement strongly opposed Proposition 8, but said that its passage does not justify the defacement and destruction of property. The ADL urged Californians to channel their frustration and disappointment in productive and responsible ways to work towards full equality for all Americans. The statement further said that to place anyone in fear of threat to their houses of worship or their personal security because they have expressed deeply held religious views is contrary to the Constitution's First Amendment that protects freedom of speech, freedom of assembly and freedom of religion for all. The Anti-Defamation League, founded



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in 1913, is the world's leading organization fighting anti-Semitism through programs and services that counteract hatred, prejudice, and bigotry.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

CAMBODIA—DRAFT NGO LAW IN PROCESS

The draft NGO law is expected to be passed by the National Assembly in the coming months. According to a news article published by [ASIA TIMES ONLINE](#), the draft law entitled “Law on Organizations,” was first written over a decade ago and requires NGOs submit documents for government approval documents detailing their structure, goals, funding resources, properties and even logos. It also entails fines and imprisonment for any NGO which fails to submit annual reports to the Ministry of Economy and Finance.

IRELAND—CHARITIES BILL MOVES FORWARD IN PARLIAMENT

The [Charities Bill 2007](#) was passed by Dáil Éireann (lower house of the (Oireachtas) Parliament) on 5 November 2008, and now moves to the Seanad Éireann (senate – upper house of the parliament) for consideration. The purpose of the Bill is to enact a reform of the law relating to charities in order to ensure accountability and to protect against abuse of charitable status and fraud. The bill also provides a definition of “charitable purpose” for the first time in primary legislation.

SCOTLAND—

- **CHARITY APPEALS PANEL TO BE ABOLISHED SOON**

According to the Scottish government [news release](#), the Scottish Charity Appeals Panel will be abolished once the Government has publicly consulted and agreed upon where its functions will be transferred in future. The Panel has heard only one case in its two year history. The decision to abolish the panel is part of a number of changes to bodies scrutinizing public services in Scotland.

- **SCHOOLS THREATENED WITH LOSS OF CHARITABLE STATUS**

Four of Scotland's top private schools have been threatened with the loss of their charitable status if they fail to increase their spending on bursaries, according to a news article published by [THE JOURNAL](#). The [Office of the Scottish Charitable Regulator](#) (OSCR) has said that the four schools failed to meet the “public benefit test” needed for a charity. They have been given a year in which to put forward plans to expand bursaries to meet the test's standards.

UNITED KINGDOM—CODE OF GOVERNANCE FOR CREDIT UNIONS PUBLISHED

In partnership with credit unions and other stakeholders, credit union umbrella organization ABCUL has published the “Code of Governance for Credit Unions,” with 45 standards of good governance against which credit unions can measure their success and compliance. The Code of Governance for Credit Unions is available for download at the [Credit Union Governance website](#).



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MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

CHINA—GOVERNMENT FLAGS HUMAN RIGHTS ACTION PLAN

The State Council Information Office has announced that the government has decided to draft a “human rights action plan” to improve citizens’ rights over the next two years. According to a news article published by [XINHUA](#), the action plan will be drafted by a panel from that office and the Foreign Ministry, joined by more than 50 departments, public associations and non-governmental organizations. Human rights experts from key universities and academic institutions would form a group to advise the panel.

FRANCE—COURT STRIKES DOWN RULING ALLOWING MUSLIM MAN TO ANNUL MARRIAGE BECAUSE WIFE LIED ABOUT VIRGINITY

A French court of appeals has struck down a ruling that allowed a Muslim man to annul his marriage because his wife had lied about being a virgin, according to a news article published by [BBC](#). They are now effectively married again - even though both partners said they accepted the original judgment. That initial verdict had caused emotional debate and outrage among some feminists, who said it amounted to a “fatwa” against women’s liberty and argued the decision was unfair because a woman would not be able to cancel her marriage if she thought her husband was not a virgin. Critics also asked if the judge would have ruled the same way if the marriage was not between two Muslims, and claimed the decision was incompatible with France’s secular principles. But the husband's lawyers said the case had nothing to do with religion. They argued that the wife had breached the wedding contract, and tricked her husband into marriage. Under the French civil code, a marriage can be annulled if a spouse has lied about an “essential quality” of the relationship.

MALAYSIA—ISLAMIC BODY BANS YOGA WITH CHANTING FOR MUSLIMS

Malaysia’s Prime Minister has stated that yoga is acceptable for Muslims as long as they do not chant, according to a news article published by [AP](#). The statement [follows](#) the National Fatwa Council’s edict saying that Muslims cannot exercise yoga because it had elements of other religions that could corrupt the faith of a Muslims. Though the council’s decisions are not legally binding on Malaysia’s Muslim population, many abide by the edicts out of deference, and the council does have the authority to ostracize an offending Muslim from society.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

AFRICA—ACHPR ENDORSES “DEFENDING CIVIL SOCIETY” REPORT

The African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights (ACHPR) has endorsed the report entitled “[Defending Civil Society](#),” according to a [SW RADIO AFRICA](#) press release on 10 November 2008. The report identifies international principles



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protecting civil society; discusses legal barriers facing civil society; government justifications for legal barriers; and recommends steps for building solidarity and promoting the principles. The report, co-authored by the [World Movement for Democracy](#) at the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) and the International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL), is based on extensive research and wide consultation with NGOs around the world, particularly those working on the advancement of democracy and human rights.

ASEAN -- PEOPLES' FORUM 2008 TO BE HELD IN DECEMBER

Civil society organizations and social movements from across Southeast Asia will gather in Bangkok for the [ASEAN Peoples' Forum](#) (APF) from 12-14 December 2008. The three day conference will provide an opportunity for civil society actors to take part in various plenary sessions and workshops addressing a wide spectrum of urgent contemporary issues for all ASEAN peoples

RESOURCES

GLOBAL NEW POLICY BRIEFING PAPERS PUBLISHED BY INTRAC—

- **[BRIEFING PAPER 19](#), FRAGILE STATES OR FAILED POLICIES: SOME DONOR INDUCED DILEMMAS**
This paper provides an overview of the current debate on fragile and failed states from the perspective of an NGO, and also tries to locate the voice of civil society organizations in this debate.
- **[BRIEFING PAPER 21](#), CIVIL SOCIETY IN RECONCILIATION: BEYOND THE 'CYPRUS PROBLEM'**
This paper looks at what CSOs can do in protracted post-conflict scenarios, how INGOs can work with organizations from opposing sides, and how Cypriot civil society has worked to alleviate the division of the island.
- **[BRIEFING PAPER 22](#), WHAT ROLE FOR EVALUATION IN THE CONTEXT OF PERFORMANCE-BASED MANAGEMENT?**
This paper considers the major challenge for evaluators in the third sector of growing demand for performance-based management, accountability and quantification, making 'learning-oriented' evaluation increasingly difficult to undertake.

UNITED STATES—RESOURCES ON TAX ISSUES

The IRS offers significant resources to help the managers of a new exempt organization navigate tax issues in one convenient place. The “[ABC’s for Exempt Organizations](#)” can be on the [IRS Charities and Nonprofits Web page](#).



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