



1101 15<sup>th</sup> St. NW, Floor 3 | Washington, DC 20009 | 202.350-6700 tel | 202.452-0804 fax | [www.ifes.org](http://www.ifes.org)

---

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT: Laura Ingalls in Washington, 202-350-6729, [lingalls@ifes.org](mailto:lingalls@ifes.org)**

**STUDIES: TRACKING POLITICAL MONEY CRUCIAL  
FIRST STEP IN POST-CONFLICT COUNTRIES**

**Washington, DC – JUNE 12, 2006** – Countries recovering from violent conflict benefit when political finance regulations are introduced early in the rebuilding process, according to one of two new studies released today by IFES' Center for Transitional and Post-Conflict Governance. **“Political Finance in Post-Conflict Societies”** examines the role of political money in eight countries: Afghanistan, Bosnia-Herzegovina, El Salvador, Haiti, Iraq, Kosovo, Liberia and Mozambique.

The study discusses the minimal steps a country needs to take in order to prevent criminal or terrorist organizations from funding political parties, abuse of state resources, political violence and vote buying. Those steps include introducing basic disclosure and enforcement regulations and adopting reforms that are realistic and have broad support.

“Without these steps, these infant democracies can easily fall prey to the corrupt practices of the past, where one man’s money has more weight than the votes of millions of citizens,” said Jeffrey Carlson, IFES Senior Program Specialist and co-author of the study.

The central role of disclosure in regulating political finance in emerging democracies is presented in the second study, **“Money and Politics Program: Guide to Applying Lessons Learned.”** The guide looks at IFES’ experience in more than 10 countries and presents practical ways to promote public disclosure of financial accounts by political parties and candidates in emerging democracies.

Liberia’s historic elections in 2005 demonstrate that disclosure can work in even the most difficult, post-conflict environments. All of the country’s 762 candidates complied with the government’s new public disclosure requirements. These disclosure reports were made widely available to the media and the voters in advance of the elections.

“There was an incredible environment for reform in Liberia,” said IFES Senior Advisor Sue Palmer, who advised Liberia’s National Elections Commission from 2004-2005. She said Liberians were determined that money from former President Charles Taylor would not be used to put his supporters in power again.

Both studies are available free of charge on [www.moneyandpolitics.net](http://www.moneyandpolitics.net) or by contacting Laura Ingalls, at [lingalls@ifes.org](mailto:lingalls@ifes.org) or 202-350-6729.

# # #

*IFES is an international, nonprofit organization that supports the building of democratic societies.*