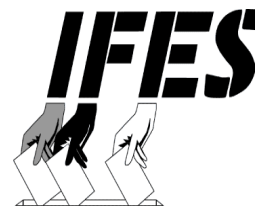


# Africa and Near East



MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK

February 2001

## Parliamentary and Presidential Elections in Ghana

On December 7, 2000, approximately 9.8 million registered voters went to the polls in Ghana in the third competitive democratic elections since 1992. At stake were the office of President and the 200 seats in Ghana's Parliament.



Vote counting under the close supervision of curious onlookers at a polling station in Cape Coast, Central Region

The December 2000 elections not only marked a watershed for Ghana's political system, it was also the culmination of IFES' longstanding efforts to support democratic consolidation in Ghana. Since 1997, IFES has assisted the Electoral Commission of Ghana by providing training

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and equipment to increase its management and planning capabilities, improve its use of information technology and strengthen its voter education efforts. Leading up to the December elections, IFES has helped the Electoral Commission to hold planning meetings for its regional directors, train a large number of returning officers, polling agents and candidate agents and develop voter education posters and radio spots. Moreover, through Project ECSELL (Enhancing Civil Society Effectiveness at the Local Level), IFES encouraged Ghanaian citizens to assess candidates running for political office by sponsoring 41 debates between parliamentary candidates in 22 constituencies.

During the first week of December, IFES home office staff traveled to Ghana and, together with

the IFES field office, organized a three-pronged IFES election observation mission. First, IFES observed the conduct of the December 7 elections to assess the impact that the IFES-funded training for poll workers and the provision of voter education material had on the general conduct of the elections. Second, IFES coordinated an observation mission by a delegation of election officials, political party and civil society representatives from Sierra Leone that were in Ghana to study Ghana's electoral system and processes. Third, IFES facilitated the observation of the elections by a group of Ghanaian citizens with disabilities.

IFES deployed seven teams to seven regions (Ashanti, Brong Ahafo, Central, Eastern, Greater Accra, Volta and Western) from December 6-8 to observe the conduct of the elections on December 7. The teams observed the opening of the poll, voting, counting and the collation of results at the constituency centers. The observers visited a total of 114 polling stations on election day.

### Technical Assessment of the Elections

The IFES staff that participated in the observation mission focused on the organizational and technical aspects of the elections. At a majority of the polling stations, the elections were conducted according to the law and the regulations of the Commission. Of particular note were the presence of the necessary materials and the effective and impartial management of the polling stations by the Presiding Officers. The atmosphere at the polling stations was collegial and it was clear that the officials and voters were fully committed to the electoral process. Also remarkable was the understanding of the voters about the voting process itself, helped as well as by the clear directions of the Polling Assistants. For the most part, the Party Agents understood their roles well and it was clear that the Electoral Commissions' briefing of the Agents was critical to their positive contribution to election day.

As the December 7 presidential election failed to produce a clear winner, the Electoral Commission announced that none of the two leading candidates was able to obtain the Constitutionally-mandated 50% plus one vote needed to win the presidency. While the NPP candidate Mr. J. A.

Kufuor polled 48.5%, Vice President J. E. Atta Mills of the NDC received 44.2% of the total votes cast. The five other candidates shared the remaining seven percent. According to Article 63 of the Constitution, the Electoral Commission was to conduct a presidential run-off election within 21 days of the first balloting. The presidential run-off was scheduled for December 28, 2000.



Polling station near Cape Coast, Central Region

On December 30, 2000, the Electoral Commission of Ghana declared John Agyekum Kufuor of the National Patriotic Party (NPP) the winner of the presidential run-off election. Mr. Kufuor mustered 56.9% of the votes cast in the second round of elections. His opponent, Vice President John E. Atta-Mills of the National Democratic Congress (NDC), won 43.1% of the total votes cast. Mr. Atta-Mills congratulated Mr. Kufuor on his victory and, in a smooth and peaceful transition, Mr. Kufuor was sworn in as the second democratically elected president of Ghana on Sunday, January 7, 2001. The NPP also won a plurality of 100 of 200 seats in parliament compared to 92 seats for the NDC in the simultaneous December 7 parliamentary elections.

### Observation by Sierra Leone Delegation

As part of IFES' first phase of Project STEPP (Supporting the Electoral and Peace Processes) in Sierra Leone, IFES sponsored a mission to Ghana for four members of the Sierra Leone National

Electoral Commission (NEC) and four representatives of Sierra Leone's political parties and civil society to assess the preparations and conduct of Ghana's elections. The NEC delegation arrived in Ghana on November 28, 2000 (a week before the civil society and political party representatives), to meet with and participate in with the Ghanaian Electoral Commission's last debriefings and training sessions. Accompanied by Simon Clarke, the IFES/Sierra Leone Project Manager, the NEC was represented by:

- Mr. Walter O.F. Nicol, Chief Electoral Commissioner and Chairman;
- Alhaji Musa King, NEC Commissioner – Western Area.
- Mr. Joseph Aruna, NEC Commissioner – Eastern Province; and
- Mr. David Sanu Kai-Rogers, Executive Secretary;

The political party and civil society members were represented by:

- Mr. Hassan Barrie, Chairman, Civil Society Movement (CSM);
- Sheikh Abu Bakarr Conteh, Chairman, Executive Council, Inter-Religious Council of Sierra Leone;
- Mr. Victor Bockarie Foh, Regional Chairman—Southern Region, Assistant Secretary General, All Peoples' Congress (APC); and
- Dr. John Abdul Kargbo, Secretary General, Peoples' Democratic Alliance (PDA)

In addition to conducting their individual debriefings to their respective organizations shortly after returning to Sierra Leone on December 14, 2000, the delegation also conducted a joint debriefing of their study mission on January 18, 2001, in Free-town for political parties, civil society and members of the press and diplomatic community.

#### Observation by Disability Groups

Under a grant from the Swedish government, IFES worked with Ghanaian NGOs to identify, train, and deploy seventy-seven Ghanaians with

disabilities to serve as fully-credentialed election observers during the December 7, 2000, Presidential and Parliamentary elections in Ghana. The observation demonstrated that people with disabilities are capable of representing their fellow citizens in such a visible and important civic role. The observers also reviewed the extent and manner in which people with disabilities participate in electoral events. This is believed to be first time in the developing world that individuals with disabilities were specifically recruited and trained to serve as election observers.



Mobility impaired election observers follow polling station procedures while Ghanaian citizens are lining up to vote.

This unique program is part of IFES' three-year effort to promote the electoral enfranchisement of people with disabilities - an initiative funded by the governments of Sweden and Finland and coordinated by IFES consultant Jerome Mindes.

The observers – trained and coordinated by the Action on Disability and Development/Ghana (ADD) and the Federation of Disabled Associations (FODA) of Ghana - were also deployed for the Presidential run-off election on December 28.

Forty-seven individuals were deployed in the northern cities of Tamale, Damongo, Savelugu, Lawra, Wa, Nadowli, Bawku, Navrongo, and Bolgatanga. An additional 30 were deployed in the capital in Accra. Among these were 24 individuals with visual impairments, 22 individuals with hearing impairments, and 31 individuals with varying mobility impairments. The 77 individuals observed election day activities at nearly

-viduals observed election day activities at nearly 300 voting stations.

In a statement issued on December 15, 2000, by Thomas Issah of ADD and Nicholas Halm of FODA, the observers noted that the "elections were conducted in a free, fair, and transparent manner." On disability issues, the ADD/FODA statement noted that "the manner in which some polling stations were set up impeded easy access to the voting process for persons with disabilities." The observers also noted "with disappointment the low turnout of persons with disabilities on election day," commenting that "either many persons with disabilities have not been able to register to vote or they lacked guides to bring them to the polling stations."

In March 2001, representatives from ADD and FODA will meet with the Ghanaian Electoral Commission to share their observations and recommendations about improving disability access to the electoral process. IFES will facilitate this "lessons-learned" seminar.

## **AAEA**

During the month of November 2000, the Association of African Election Authorities (AAEA) Secretariat worked with a local translator to finalize the French version of the AAEA Newsletter no. 2. In early December, the French newsletter was sent to fifteen francophone members and associate members of the Association, as well as to the embassies of francophone non-member countries, such as Côte d'Ivoire, Mauritania and the Comoros. Forty-three organizations and individuals – AAEA members, associate members, embassies, international organizations, donor agencies, and interested individuals – received copies of the English version of Newsletter no. 2.

The wealth and diversity of articles represented in the second AAEA newsletter indicates a solidification of the AAEA's role as a primary vehicle for the exchange of election and democracy related information all across the African continent, in Francophone as well as in Anglophone countries. Solicitations for articles for the first edition

of the newsletter in 2001 will be sent out during the first quarter 2001.

## **Benin**

On January 2, the Beninese Constitutional Court published its decision stating that the amended electoral laws were in agreement with the provisions of Benin's constitution. The following day, President Kerekou promulgated the laws and on January 25, the *Commission Electorale Nationale Autonome, CENA*, Benin's autonomous national election commission was established.

While the new electoral laws stipulate that future CENAs will need to be established 90 days before election day, the current CENA has only 38 days, until March 4, the current date scheduled for Benin's presidential election.

In January, IFES identified 5 local Beninese NGOs that will organize a series of fora in Benin's regional departments on issues at stake at the local and national level. On January 29 and 30, representatives from the 5 NGOs participated in a two-day training workshop. Participants reviewed a training guide developed by IFES and discussed their plans to conduct the regional debates.

Also in January, IFES began preparing for its national cascade training program of Benin's census agents and pollworkers. Shortly after the CENA was established, IFES drafted a 40-page guide for census agents. At the request of the CENA, this guide was reduced to an 8-page guide and 30,000 copies were distributed to election officials. IFES also submitted a proposal to the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) to request assistance with the development and printing of a guide for pollworkers, training materials and activities associated with IFES training program for Beninese election officials.

## **Burundi**

On January 20, the first meeting of the UN-supported Implementation and Monitoring Committee (IMC) of

-toring Committee (IMC) of the Burundi Peace Accord concluded in Arusha without making substantive progress in setting up agreed structures to achieve peace.

The 29-member committee met from January 16-20 under the chairmanship of the UN Secretary General's Special Envoy to the Great Lakes region, Mr. Berhanu Dinka of Ethiopia. The committee was scheduled to adopt its rules of procedure, appoint 11 members to the body's Executive Committee and revise the Accord's calendar. However, only the rules of procedure were adopted after protracted negotiations, leaving the rest of the agenda for the next meeting tentatively set in two month's time.

The IMC consists of representatives from the 19 political parties that signed the August 28, 2000 agreement, six eminent representatives from Burundian civil society, one member from the United Nations, one member from the Organization of African Unity, one member from the donor community and one yet-to-be appointed member from the Great Lakes region.

On January 29, the U.N. Security Council met in a closed-door meeting to discuss the latest developments on the peace process in Burundi. Council members reiterated their call on all armed groups that remained outside the peace process to cease hostilities and to participate fully in the peace process.

A day earlier, the 19 parties who signed the August 28, 2000 Arusha Peace Accord left Tanzania without agreeing on the identity of the transitional president.

As part of its ongoing program targeting women and youth, in January, IFES organized a joint meeting with two youth groups. At the meeting, participants engaged in dialogue on current and future reforms in four areas—education, justice, health and economics. Within the justice sector, youth discussed the independence of the judiciary, the reform of the youth offender act, the implementation of a permanent legal assistance system for youth and the implementation of a social program to reintegrate young offenders back into civil society. This meeting was part of IFES' lar-

ger program to increase information on perceptions of justice and enhance civil society capacity to advance justice system reform in Burundi.

In December, IFES organized two joint meetings—one with two youth groups and one with two women's groups. The purpose of the joint meetings was to encourage group participants to share their respective experiences and establish a network of representatives within Bujumbura. At the meetings, smaller working groups were formed and IFES facilitators presented a simple and thought-provoking drawing for discussion. Each group saw in the image a reflection of the present conflict in Burundi. At the end of the meeting, an informal evaluation form was distributed. In over 90% of the evaluations received, participants asserted that the discussion groups helped to break ethnic barriers and promote reconciliation. One participant stated, "This program provides an opportunity for ordinary people like me to express my view on the future of our country and especially on the reforms". Another added, "It is the first time since 1993 that I have had the opportunity to sit down with individuals from other ethnic groups and share ideas and opinions on the future of the country." At the end of the joint women's meeting, participants selected representatives for each of Bujumbura's 13 zones.

### Cote d'Ivoire

On December 20 IFES closed its office in Cote d'Ivoire following the conduct of the December 10 legislative elections. A report on IFES' activities in Cote d'Ivoire has been drafted and a final report will be distributed shortly. IFES remains committed to Cote d'Ivoire and its citizens and hopes to return to work with Ivorians in their efforts towards national reconciliation.

On January 7 an unidentified armed group attacked and took control of Cote d'Ivoire's state-owned radio and television station where they broadcast radio messages announcing a change of government. The following morning Cote d'Ivoire's Senior Minister in charge of Defense and Civil Protection Moise Lida Kouassi announced that the government had regained con-

trol and that two members of the loyalist forces had been killed and several others wounded in the fighting. Foreign reaction was swift with France, Mali and Nigeria condemning the attempted coup.

Following the attempted coup, allegations that foreigners from neighboring countries had been involved led to attacks on individuals in many suburbs of Abidjan and large groups of non-Ivorians fled the country.

On January 14, Cote d'Ivoire conducted parliamentary by-elections in 26 of 29 constituencies where legislative elections failed to take place on December 10, 2000. The elections were marked by a peaceful boycott by the opposition party Rally for Republicans (RDR) and low voter turnout.

On January 24, Cote d'Ivoire announced the formation of a new government in which President Gbagbo's Ivorian Popular Front (FPI) took 19 of the 28 cabinet positions. Five cabinet posts went to the former ruling Democratic Party of Cote d'Ivoire (PDCI-RDR), two to the Ivorian Labor Party (PIT) and two went to independent candidates. Two days earlier, Mamadou Koulibaly of the ruling Ivorian Popular Front (FPI) was elected speaker of Cote d'Ivoire's first National Assembly in the second republic.

## D.R. Congo

President Laurent Desire Kabila was assassinated on January 16 in Kinshasa reportedly by one of his bodyguards. While the motives and possible backers of the assassination remained unknown, in a remarkably smooth and violence-free transition, Joseph Kabila, the slain president's son, was sworn in as the new president on January 26. As the country continued an official 30-day period of mourning at month's end, Joseph Kabila set off on a diplomatic tour to call on officials in Paris, Washington, New York and Brussels. Rebel groups in eastern Congo condemned the non-democratic succession in Kinshasa, but noted the opportunity to renew commitments to the Lusaka peace process. The international community was

cautiously optimistic, hopefully anticipating that the change in leadership would lead to rapid progress towards peace and democratic transition.

In December 2000, although fighting continued on several fronts across the country, there was sufficient apparent progress in the peace process so that the Security Council renewed the mandate of the UN observer mission (MONUC) in DRC for another six months. This extension will also allow for the first time the deployment of monitors and peacekeepers in certain conflict flash points, if minimal security conditions are met.

The new Program Manager for IFES in DRC, Marceau Edouard, arrived in Kinshasa on December 8, 2000. Mr. Edouard spent a week of introduction and orientation facilitated by the local staff along with the IFES/Washington Program Officer Ed Kiely. In late December – early January, the new P.M. initiated a full staff retreat to get to know the local staff, learn about the present state of affairs, and start developing a solid strategy to carry on and revitalize the administration and implementation of all programs

The IFES/DRC Resource Center on Democracy, Elections and the Rule of Law (RC) received an average of 125 civil society leaders, academics, and independent researchers per workday through December and January. During the same period a total of 253 persons conducted independent Internet-based research and 256 persons participated in one-hour Internet initiation training sessions.

In December 2000, IFES awarded a subgrant to the civil society network "Réseau Action Femme" (RAF) – the Women's Action Network. RAF is the only women's NGO umbrella group in DRC. The subgrant enabled RAF to organize and conduct a 10-day campaign to raise awareness about violence against women in 10 of the 24 communes of Kinshasa and in the town of Kasangulu in the neighboring province of Bas-Congo. The main objectives of the campaign were to:

- Analyze the various forms of violence in present-day society;
- Assess women's involvement in the fight against violence;

- Develop a program of activities for RAF member associations; and
- Devise an advocacy strategy around women and violence issues.

Campaign methods included film showings, workshops, theater plays and debates in schools, churches, and other public places. Some of the strategies to eliminate violence against women identified by participants during the course of campaign debates included:

- Guaranteeing the protection of the women and young girls by families;
- Guaranteeing the protection of the women and young girls by the State and public services;
- Protecting women in their work environment; and
- Improving individual and collective ways to protect women from AIDS and poverty.

At the end of the campaign, the participants and RAF coordinators proposed a set of recommendations to carry their work forward. They pointed to the need to:

- Promote the respect of the universal principles and international conventions guaranteeing equity, justice and progress for all.
- Keep the pressure on the institutions and public services to empower women at every stage of the society.
- Strengthen the capacities of local NGOs in order to have a better impact on the continuous struggle against violence.
- Organize activities either by age or by social category to raise the sense of responsibility and the commitment to the action.
- Improve the methodology in order to better involve the grassroots dynamics and ideas.

IFES contributed \$8, 750 to a total RAF campaign budget of \$22, 000 and IFES staff were able to monitor the program activities by partici-

pating in most of the events, including the open and closure ceremonies.

## Guinea

In December 2000, IFES received approval for a 9-month civil society strengthening program in Guinea. In January, the Guinea program team identified and engaged Elizabeth Cote as its Guinea Project Manager. Ms. Cote will participate in a one-week orientation session at IFES Washington beginning February 4 prior to traveling to Conakry.

IFES' Guinea program will increase popular understanding of the relationship between elections, local/provincial/national government and service provision through dialogue and inclusive processes to encourage civil society participation in the political process. The program will seek to mitigate the potential for political and social crises; strengthen the Guinean population's access to unbiased information on good governance; enhance civil society's ability to address pivotal transition and election issues; and strengthen the capacity and transparency of the elections supervisory body, the *Haut Conseil Electoral* (HCE).

## Liberia

During the months of December 2000 and January 2001, IFES' provision of fuel to Radio Veritas continued to assist the station meet its generator fuel needs and increase its broadcasting time from a daily average of 8 hours to eighteen hours. As the most popular independent nongovernmental radio station in Liberia, Radio Veritas' news broadcasts and programs emphasizing national reconciliation continue to play an important role in Liberia's post conflict reconstruction. IFES is presently working with Radio Veritas to supply equipment to increase the quality of its broadcasting.

## Madagascar

As part of its work in Madagascar under the Elections Process IQC, IFES was to organize and con-

duct poll watcher training for local NGOs, including the lead organization, FFKM Andrimaso. The training of trainers was completed on November 18, 2000, and 145 core trainers were deployed into 27 districts. These trainers in turn trained over 2,300 poll watchers. Despite poor weather conditions, FFKM Andrimaso observers were still able to be present in 1,328 polling stations throughout the country.

Following the December 3, 2000 parliamentary elections, IFES, FFKM (federation of four Christian churches) and the United States Agency for the International Development (USAID) decided to extend project activities in Madagascar for another month. This time would be used to successfully complete the post-election evaluation of the election observation.

As noted in the preliminary report of the IFES consultant responsible for the activity, the observers were alarmed by what they found. Among their initial findings, observers noted that these elections did not mobilize the electorate. Only 45% of the Malagasy population participated in the event. The consultant recommends that for the next election there be period of minimum two months before the election to conduct voter education and training activities, and there also needs to be more focus on rural education.

FFKM is currently preparing a final version of the evaluation report.

## Morocco

IFES is currently developing the program for the fourth set of upcoming judicial training seminars in Rabat, scheduled for mid-March 2001. These seminars are designed to be more participatory in nature as the judges are now eager to apply the knowledge and skills they have gained in the previous seminars. Seminar discussions and presentations will now center on specific Moroccan cases and decisions, which will then be reviewed in light of American law and international norms.

A total of 48 Moroccan judges and court presidents from commercial and administrative tribunals are expected to participate in the upcoming

seminars. Topics will include expropriation and remedies, electoral litigation, bankruptcy law and competition law.

Discussions with the Ministry of Justice have also continued regarding how IFES may address their evolving needs both within the framework of the ongoing seminar series and in the context of add-on activities.

## Nigeria

IFES/Nigeria is preparing for a very busy first half of 2001. Most major project activities must be completed by July in order not to conflict with the planning of the Independent National Electoral Commission's (INEC) preparations for the voter registration later in the year. IFES Nigeria activities in 2001 will include:

*Basic Election Administration Training (BEAT) workshops*

IFES/Nigeria will design a two-week workshop curriculum that provides training in basic concepts of election administration for INECs 884 electoral officers, state administrative secretaries and logistics officers. A total of 36 workshops will be held between late March and early July 2001. The curriculum will cover:

*Principles of Election Administration* – what election administration is and the role of the professional election administrator in the democratic process.

*Election Planning* – development of election operational plans and tasks lists that ensure timely delivery of election services.

*Logistics* – principles of logistics planning and the development of logistics plans.

*Ethics in Election Administration* – ethics principles for the election administrator. Participants should come away with an understanding of what is ethically responsible in the area of election administration.

*Conflict Management* – participants, through discussion and role-plays, will learn how to deal with challenging and often confrontational situa-



tions faced by election administrators.

*Increasing the Role of Women in the Administration of Elections* – Participants will review the role of women in election administration and discuss the constraints on their increased involvement.

*Basic Electoral Law and Guidelines*— training on those portions of the Nigeria’s election law that directly affect the performance of election administrators at the local government level.

*Public Information/Dealing with the Media* — what is public information and what is not, when it is appropriate to release information, and how to answer questions from the news media.

IFES Nigeria will bring 6 internationally respected election administrators to Nigeria to facilitate the 36 workshops. The activity is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

In addition to the workshops, IFES/Nigeria, with funding from the British Department for International Development (DFID), will assist INEC in building its capacity to develop and manage large scale voter education programs. During 2001 IFES will:

1. Provide INEC with a voter education specialist to work with the Commission’s Public Affairs Department to explore new and innovative ways to deliver voter education in Nigeria. The Public Affairs Department, with the assistance of the specialist, will develop a draft nationwide comprehensive voter education program targeted at the voter registration exercise tentatively scheduled for late 2001..
2. Following the development of the draft program, IFES will sponsor a two day workshop that brings together INEC’s 37 State Public Affairs Officers to discuss and provide critical field input into the draft plan before it is finalized and presented to the Commission for approval.

The voter education development program is scheduled to take place February to April 2001.

IFES Nigeria will also encourage civil society participation in the electoral process in Nigeria

through the award of small grants to enable civil society organisations to participate in workshops and conferences supported or co-sponsored by IFES and the Independent National Electoral Commission and to conduct focus group studies of the voter registration and election processes.

The grant program is designed to both provide a forum for civil society views to be heard on issues affecting the electoral process and to foster a cooperative working relationship between civil society organisations and the Independent National Electoral Commission.

## Sierra Leone

In addition to the IFES sponsored study mission to Ghana’s December 2000 presidential and parliamentary elections for the eight- member Sierra Leone delegation of the National Election Commission (NEC) and political party and civil society representatives (see the Ghana report), IFES’ Project STEPP (Supporting the Electoral and Peace Processes in Sierra Leone) provided additional technical assistance by supporting a Strategic Planning Retreat for the NEC. Held from January 23-26, 2001 in Freetown, Sierra Leone, the Retreat was facilitated by Simon Clarke, Project Manager, IFES/Sierra Leone; Joe Baxter, IFES’ Senior Advisor for Election Administration; and Dr. K. Afari-Gyan, the Commonwealth’s Special Adviser to the NEC and Chairman of the Ghanaian Electoral Commission. Participating in the Retreat, were all five members of the NEC, including Chairman Walter Nicol; the Executive Secretary; all senior staff; and other NEC staff representatives.

The Strategic Planning Retreat provided the first opportunity for the NEC to develop short-term and long-term goals that will need to be met to conduct future successful elections. Retreat participants developed specific objectives in the areas of conduct of elections, institution building, organizational outreach, voter education and voter registration. By the end of the Retreat, the NEC had developed draft a “Vision Statement”, “Mission Statement” and “Guiding Principles” as well as goals and objects of a strategic plan to implement them by 2005 (currently the expiration of

the term of office for the 5 Commission members). Over the next month, the NEC will complete its strategic plan and disseminate it to key Sierra Leonean stakeholders. The strategic plan will also be used to develop specific operational plans for the NEC.

Through Project STEPP, IFES will continue to assist the NEC in preparing for the upcoming national elections, expected in late 2001. Project STEPP is funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development and the British Department for International Development.

### **South Africa**

In support of the South Africa Independent Elections Commission's (IEC) voter education efforts for the December 5, 2000, local government elections, IFES provided 13 sub-grants to NGOs in Mpumalanga and Northern Provinces, the two poorest provinces with historically low voter participation and rural disenfranchised populations. Following a rigorous assessment of various NGOs in the two provinces, IFES choose eight NGOs in the Northern Province and five in Mpumalanga that had the capacity or experience in conducting voter education programs targeting farm workers, women, youth and seniors. Provided with almost \$132,000 of funding, the 13 NGOs conducted voter education programs through unique skits and workshops, reaching approximately 120,000 potential voters. In addition to the workshops, the NGOs distributed \$20,000 of IFES funded voter education literature throughout the two provinces.

### **Tanzania / Zanzibar**

On January 19, 2001, IFES' staff met with Mr. Seif Shariff Hamad, the leader of the Civic United Front (CUF)--Zanzibar's main opposition party. Accompanied by the CUF representative in North America, Mr. Shariff briefed IFES on his party's perspectives of the current crisis in Zanzibar. During Zanzibar's October 29, 2000, presidential and House of Representatives elections (the semi-autonomous archipelago's second multi-party elections since

independence), the Zanzibar Election Commission (ZEC) with the Tanzanian government's approval had suspended the vote count in some of the Zanzibar's constituencies and refused the opposition parties and observer delegations suggestions that new elections be held throughout the isles to preserve the transparency of the electoral process. Having sent a 14 member international observer delegation to the Zanzibar elections, IFES staff had previously met with Mr. Sharif (then the presidential candidate for CUF) and Dr. Amani Karume, the current president of Zanzibar and the then presidential candidate of Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM).

Following the November 5, 2000, election re-runs and the vote count, which IFES did not observe and were boycotted by the opposition parties, CUF has continued to call for fresh elections and has refused to accept the Presidency of Dr. Karume and has boycotted the isles' legislature, the House of Representatives, and the Union parliament.

IFES will issue its final report on its observations and recommendations in February 2001.

### **Yemen**

In early December 2000, the Supreme Electoral Commission (SEC) officially announced that the Referendum for the constitutional amendments and complete Local Council elections (both for governorate and district councils) were to be held simultaneously on February 20, 2001. Because of the anticipated serious technical and organizational constraints, the SEC had initially prepared for the possibility of holding the Referendum in conjunction with "partial" elections limited to governorate councils. The February 2001 Local Council elections represent the first experience in establishing elected local authorities throughout the country. The Yemeni government views this experience as a "test" for the gradual development of local administration structures. The mandate of the local councils elected in February will be for two years only - instead of four - in the probable case of approval of the proposed constitution amendments. New local elections will

have to be conducted in conjunction with the April 2003 Parliamentary elections.

IFES has continued its current program of support to the SEC but took some specific measures to assist the SEC in its scramble to prepare for the elections. In addition to regular program activities, the two areas of IFES assistance, in conjunction with the February electoral events, will consist of a quick appraisal of the SEC-conducted poll worker training and voter education. While the first component is still being looked at in light of some recent changes within the SEC training department, IFES has made quick progress in designing and printing four sets of posters in support of poll worker training and voter education.

The IFES posters include:

- A first set of training materials that will be used for the first level of the SEC poll worker cascade training. It comprises enlarged samples of electoral forms, documents, explicative charts and various diagrams. This set of posters will be distributed to each of the 330 district centers.
- A second set of training materials for use in the second phase of the training program, targeting the members of the polling committees. It will be distributed to the 2080 voting centers throughout the 20 governorates.
- A third set will consist of a poster entitled "Steps in the Voting Process." The poster details the step-by-step procedure to be followed by poll workers on election day. This visual aid will be displayed at each of the polling centers and serve the dual function of reminding poll workers of routine procedures and educating voters in those procedures before entering in the polling area.
- A fourth poster will be specifically designed for female voters to encourage and guide voting among women.

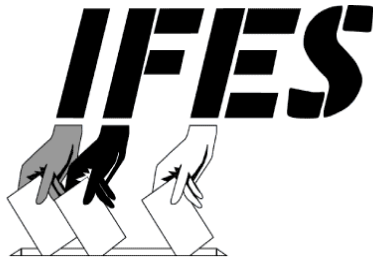
From January 10-20, IFES Program Officer for

the Middle East and North Africa Lazhar Aloui traveled to Yemen and held individual meetings with most of the commissioners. The purpose of the meetings was to assess preparations for the upcoming elections and to appraise future SEC plans and needs for assistance. All SEC interlocutors recognized IFES contributions to the institutional development of the SEC and expressed genuine and strong interest in a continued partnership with IFES.

### Yemen RoL

During his stay in Sana'a, Mr. Aloui met with potential partners in the judicial sector to determine future activities

based on the assessment mission recently undertaken by IFES. The IFES team held several meetings at the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) with Dr. Isma'eel El-Wazeer, Minister of Justice and other Ministry officials. They also conducted several meetings with representatives from the World Bank, UNDP and other local and international NGOs who are already active in the development of rule of law in Yemen. US Ambassador Barbara Bodine organized a working lunch in honor of IFES visiting staff that was attended by parliamentarians, lawyers and international donors. Following Mr. Aloui's trip, IFES will prepare an assessment report synthesis for translation into Arabic and distribution to select contacts in Yemen. IFES anticipates to organize two seminar/workshop sessions to train Yemeni judges within the next six months.



## MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK

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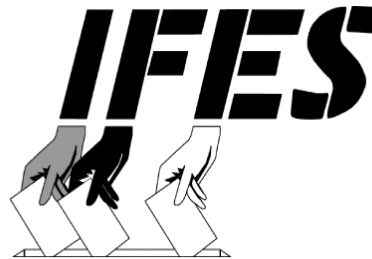
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