



AFRICA AND NEAR EAST



December 2000

International Visitors Observe US Election Process

The 2000 United States presidential elections provided an opportunity for election officials and civil society members from Nigeria, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Yemen to observe the administration of national, state, and local elections. As part of IFES' assistance programs with election management authorities worldwide, the Africa and the Near East division conducted a U.S. Elections Study Tour from October 31st to November 9th, 2000. The purpose of the study tour was to give the visitors from the three represented countries an insight into how elections are organized in the United States and how political parties and civic education groups mobilize the electorate.



The delegation at the Capitol Building

The 15 tour participants – eight from Nigeria, four from DRC, and three from Yemen - began the study mission by visiting the District of Columbia Board of Elections and Ethics (DCBOEE), the Maryland State Board of Elections (MBOE) and the Anne Arundel (MD) County Board of Elections. The visitors were able to witness how different states administer the presidential election as well as their respective state and local elections. They were particularly interested in topics regarding absentee ballots and voter fraud, and were able to explore the issue of voter fraud more in depth

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during a presentation at IFES' headquarters by Craig Donsanto, Head of the Election Crimes Division in the U.S Department of Justice.

During the visit to the District of Columbia City Council, Linda Cropp, Chairperson of the Council, provided the visitors a comprehensive look at the role of the DC Council in supervising the DCBOEE and the electoral process in the District of Columbia. At the DC Office of Campaign Finance the group was provided with detailed insights into campaign finance issues, with emphasis on the enforcement of campaign finance regulations and the adjudication of violations of campaign finance laws.

Visitors representing civil society groups were particularly interested in a presentation by Kirsten Nokes, from the League of Women Voters. Ms. Nokes made a presentation on Civic and Voter Education that focused on the importance of women to the voting process in the United States. Although they make up more than 50% of the population in Yemen, the DRC and Nigeria, women are poorly represented in political offices and in the past were excluded from politics.

With just a few days to Election 2000, the visitors observed a rally by one of the two major political parties. Several of the visitors commented on the permanent presence and apparent importance of the media during the rally and in the campaign in general.

On the morning of November 7th, IFES visitors embarked on a daylong Election day observation and were surprised to witness long lines outside three precincts in

Arlington County. Despite the large voter turnout, precincts officials took time to explain and demonstrate their duties and the election day to our visitors. The selected precincts included a church and an apartment building in Virginia, a school in Maryland and a community center in Washington, D.C. Returning to the DC Board of Elections and Ethics in the afternoon, the visitors watched as personnel sorted and counted ballots that had been cast before 12:00 p.m. Joe Baxter, IFES Senior Advisor for Election Administration and Project Manager in Nigeria, and Bill O'Field, the public relations officer of the DCBOEE, commented on the vote counting process, noting the security provisions that ensure that the counting of ballots is accurate and reflects the will of the people.

The African and Middle East visitors joined sixty officials from Latin America at the Embassy of Argentina for a panel discussion on "The Role of the Media in the U.S. Elections". The panel was composed of Franklin Havlicek, an adjunct professor at American University; Peter Hickman, a former U.S. Foreign Service Officer; James A. Thurber, a Professor at American University; and Juliana Pilon, IFES Vice-President for Programs. The four panelists responded to numerous questions from the international audience of observers and diplomats from the Washington diplomatic community.

Each country group participated in further discussion with the audience. Common themes mentioned by visitors from all three countries included:

- the use of developed technology that would not be possible at this



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- stage in Africa or Yemen due to lack of funds and infrastructure;
- the absence of members of the armed forces before, during and after the elections;
- the freedom of expression for all candidates, supporters and the press throughout the campaign and on Election Day;
- the complexity of the American electoral process, especially the intricacies of the Electoral College;
- the peaceful and orderly fashion in which the electoral process was conducted.

Visitors benefited both from theoretical and practical approaches to the way elections are conducted in the United States. They interacted with their counterparts in the U.S. and gained direct insights from the US experience. The Study Tour proved to be successful and highly effective. The participants are preparing reports in each country to share the knowledge and findings with more election officials, civil society leaders and citizens once the U.S. election process has reached its conclusion.

*The participants of the tour were:

From **Nigeria**:

Dr. Abel I. Guobadia (Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission-INEC), Chief Janet O. Ajayi (National Election Commissioner), Mrs. M. Ife Obegolu (National Election Commissioner), Alh. Mohammed Danlami (State Resident Electoral Commissioner, Kano State), Mr. Timothy O. Akanni (Director, Finance & Supplies, INEC), Mr. Raymond A. Hundun (Director, Logistics & Planning, INEC), Alh. Umar Farouk (Assistant Director,

Research & Statistics, INEC), Mrs. Ene Edwins (INEC Deputy Director, Legal Services), Mrs. Helen O. Mark (INEC Legal Officer)

From the **Democratic Republic of Congo**: Ms. Marithé Tshilumba (Journalist, *Le Phare*), Ms. Marie Bapu Bidibundu, Promotion de la Femme Rurale (PROFER), NGO, Kasai Oriental), Mr. Nono Kanzumba-Beya (Director, Les Kamikazes, which promotes democracy, peace and human rights through theatre), Mr. Sosthène Issenghe Yama (Deputy Director, IFES/DRC)

From **Yemen**:

Mr. Alawi Alattas (Chairman, Supreme Electoral Commission- SEC), Dr. Abdulwahab Al Qadasi (Director General for International Relations & Civic Education, SEC), Mr. Mazen Luqman (Deputy Project Manager, IFES/Yemen)

Benin

IFES Program Underway: Looking Towards 2001

In November, members of Benin's National Assembly debated two key electoral laws, which will guide Benin's next presidential elections, scheduled to take place before the end of February 2001.

The two laws, *Loi No 2000-18* regarding the general rules for elections in the Republic of Benin, and *Loi No 2000-19*, the law containing the special provisions applicable to the presidential elections, have been revised, amended and adopted by the National Assembly on November 17. After the laws were sent to the Constitutional Court for validation, the Court received complaints by political party members regarding the adoption procedures. The judges of the Court requested further



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information from the president of the National Assembly before rendering any decision.

If the Constitutional Court decides that the laws must go back to National Assembly, there could be another series of discussions on up to 15 articles, mainly those concerning three issues: the single ballot, the right of the Beninese citizens living outside the country to vote and the composition of the CENA.

PROGRAM

Project Manager Micheline Begin arrived in Cotonou on November 17 to initiate IFES' program in support of Benin's 2001 Presidential election. Through its project in Benin, IFES will conduct voter education through a series of fora in coordination with local NGOs on issues at stake at the local and national levels, improve electoral administration by preparing a national cascade training program for census agents and pollworkers, and update the 1999 IFES training manuals for census agents and pollworkers in coordination with the Commission Electorale Nationale Autonome (CENA).

Upon her arrival in Cotonou, Mme. Begin immediately began identifying potential local consultants to help coordinate IFES' voter education activity. After three weeks in Benin, Mme. Begin has set up the new IFES/Benin office and has begun identifying NGOs that will eventually coordinate the series of fora in Benin's 12 departments.

Burundi

Arusha: the Road to Peace...

Although Burundi's National Assembly formally ratified the Arusha peace accord on November 30, the latest round of peace talks aimed at ending Burundi's civil war concluded with little progress toward implementing the August 28 agreement. The talks between Burundi's government and opposition parties in Arusha, Tanzania, did not resolve the question of who would lead the transitional government and failed to persuade Hutu rebel groups, who are not participating in the talks, to sign a cease-fire agreement.

Former South African president Nelson Mandela, who has been mediating the peace process, warned delegates in Arusha that the international community would be reluctant to help unless the delegates take deliberate steps toward peace. Mandela has organized a conference of major donors in Paris on December 11 and 12 aimed at raising funds to revitalize Burundi's economy.

PROGRAM

In October and November, IFES continued to encourage the non-formal sector of Burundi civil society to identify and propose options to support justice reform, as outlined in the August 28 peace agreement. IFES organized a series of informal discussion groups with representatives from Burundi's non-formal sector to build confidence among participants to engage in an open dialogue on the impact of the Burundi crisis. Four meetings were held with two different youth groups—one group composed of youth who had previously participated in the violence (ex-Hutu rebels and ex-Tutsi militia) and a



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second group composed of youth which included university students as well as doctors, journalists and teachers. Four meetings were also held with two different women's groups. The participants of all four groups were carefully selected to include representatives from the ten different zones within the capital, Bujumbura, as well as representatives from different ethnic groups.

Group participants shared how deeply civil society had been negatively impacted by the conflict, the deepening fissures along ethnic and regional lines, the worsening effects of poverty, the increased acts of violence and the breakdown of the justice system. They also shared their visions for the future and proposed options to address the crisis. For most participants, the meetings were the first opportunity they had to discuss the impact of the crisis on their lives and to share their experience with others.

In November, IFES engaged Philippe Lamarche as the long-term Project Manager for Burundi. Program Officer Lori Yamamoto traveled to Bujumbura to coordinate the transition and prepare for Mr. Lamarche's arrival on November 6. While in Bujumbura, Ms. Yamamoto and Mr. Lamarche met with Minister of Justice Therence Sinunguruza as well as representatives from the U.S. Embassy, the International Human Rights Law Group, Africare, Search for Common Ground, UNHCR and League ITEKA, a local NGO.

On November 30, the Government of Burundi officially approved Mr. Lamarche's application to formally represent IFES. This approval is the final document required to

officially register IFES as an international non-governmental organization in Burundi.

Côte
d'Ivoire

IFES Returns to Cote d'Ivoire for the December 10 Legislative Elections

More than 20,000 supporters of opposition leader and former Prime Minister Alassane Ouattara took to the streets of Abidjan on December 4 and 5, after Dr. Ouattara was banned by the Supreme Court from participating in Cote d'Ivoire's December 10 legislative elections. Following protests which led to at least 10 deaths, the Ivorian government initiated a state of emergency and a curfew through December 12. The December 10 elections for 225 open seats will be an important test for the current government, which took power after a popular uprising against the military regime.

PROGRAM

On November 25, IFES returned to Abidjan to initiate a civic education campaign in support of Cote d'Ivoire's December 10 legislative elections. Using seminars, local radio, traditional *griots* and local information networks, 42 representatives from seven civil society organizations traveled throughout the country from December 7-9. The campaign was designed to inform the electorate about the use of the single ballot and the voters' rights and responsibilities, and to mobilize them to vote on December 10. In support of the campaign, IFES designed and produced 5,000 posters and 100,000 flyers for distribution throughout the country.



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**Democratic
Republic of
Congo**

Series of Meetings to Re-Launch Peace Process

October and November 2000 were busy months for the diplomatic actors working to end the war in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

On October 16, 2000, the heads of state from DRC, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Rwanda, Uganda, and South Africa met with Mozambican President Joachim Chissano in Maputo. They all agreed that the combatants would withdraw the armed troops back at least 15km from the positions they held in 1999, at the time of the signature of the Lusaka Accords.

A week later, on October 27th, President Laurent-Desire Kabila hosted a diplomatic meeting in Kinshasa for the first time since the beginning of the conflict in 1998. Four previously neutral countries (Cameroon, Central African Republic, Gabon and Republic of Congo), along with the President of Angola declared their support of the DRC's request for the total and unconditional withdrawal of Rwanda and Uganda.

From November 7-8, the presidents of Zimbabwe, Mali, Rwanda, Uganda and representatives of Angola, the DRC, Namibia and South Africa, met in Tripoli, Libya, and agreed on the deployment of a neutral African force in the DRC. The purpose of the neutral force would be to "guarantee the borders of Rwanda and Uganda" and assess the size of militia groups active in the DRC - such as the Interahamwe - before disarming and resettling their members. Uganda and Rwanda would withdraw their troops from

DRC in accordance with the provisions of the Lusaka peace accord, as would other foreign forces present in the country.

Nevertheless, the November 27th meeting in Maputo, at which the mediators planned to discuss the results of the latest deliberations between the state actors involved in the DRC conflict, "did not live up to the expectations of the Congolese people", according to the DRC State television. The ministers could not reach consensus on one of the four following options: total withdrawal of "aggressor troops" and MONUC (UN mission in DRC) deployment along the borders; partial withdrawal of troops and MONUC withdrawal in demarcation zones; the withdrawal of "aggressor troops" with the deployment of a neutral African peacekeeping force along the DRC-Uganda-Rwanda borders; and the creation of mechanisms for disarming armed groups and movements. President Chissano still claimed that the Maputo summit represented a step forward in the peace process after President Kabila agreed to give MONUC greater freedom of movement in the country.

The rebel groups faced several leadership crises. Ernest Wamba dia Wamba, leader of the Rassemblement congolais pour la democratie-Mouvement de liberation (RCD-ML), reported that Ugandan troops opposed to him had taken control of the airport and the Bunia radio station and were trying to overthrow the movement's leadership. Wamba was also facing a mutiny within the movement from his erstwhile deputies, Ateenyi Tibasima and Mbusa Nyamwisi.

On the civil side, UNHCR dispatched emergency aid to a growing number of DRC refugees. The refugees, mostly women and



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children, are located at Angola's and Republic of Congo's borders creating a humanitarian crisis in these areas.

President Kabila reshuffled his cabinet, replacing his controversial foreign minister Yerodia Abdoulaye Ndombasi with Leonard She Okitundu, the former human rights minister. Yerodia - for whom Belgium has issued an international arrest warrant on charges of inciting ethnic hatred - remains in the government as Minister of State for National Education. New ministers have also been appointed to head the finance, oil, transportation and communication, and public works ministries.

IFES PROGRAMS

During the week of November 13-17, Marceau J. Edouard, IFES' new Program Manager for the DRC traveled to Washington, DC for his IFES orientation and training. Mr. Edouard is a former Senior Investigative Assistant District Attorney from Bronx, New York, and Senior Resident Legal Advisor for the United States Department of Justice Office of Prosecutorial Development Assistance and Training in Haiti. While at IFES' headquarters, Mr. Edouard met with USAID and State Department representatives and international NGOs working in the Great Lakes area. IFES welcomes Mr. Edouard to the DRC team and looks forward to his building on the successful project activities in the DRC. Mr. Edouard is scheduled to arrive in Kinshasa on December 7, 2000.

The local staff organized several critical activities for the Congolese civil society, and continued IFES' services through the Resource Center for Democracy, Elections

and the Rule of Law. The number of daily visitors in the Center has averaged 150 per week for the last two months. Special exhibits and articles were displayed on the DRC political situation and the U.S. elections.

To better understand the U.S. electoral process and as part of the Consortium for Elections and Political Process Strengthening (CEPPS) program, four Congolese participated in the IFES-ANE sponsored U.S. Elections Study Tour in Washington, DC (see first page article for full story and list of participants). The Congolese delegates, all from civil society, were nevertheless interested and impressed by the technical aspects of the different types of voting in Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia. They learned a lot from their tour and were able to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the U.S. model that they could apply or avoid in DRC. One of the strengths was the very decentralized system that allows each state to design its electoral law according to the needs of its population. An example of the weakness was the apparent irrelevance of the electoral college in 2000, when American citizens are presumably educated and informed enough to directly elect their president. Even if the delegates left without knowing who the next president of the United States would be, the group is preparing for feedback sessions and exhibits in Kinshasa and the surrounding provinces to share its experience with more civil society leaders, academics and students.

The Rule of Law – Great Lakes Justice Initiative program welcomed Fulbright Scholar Mark Kende, Professor at the University of Montana School of Law currently based in Stellenbosch, South



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Africa. Dr. Kende visited Kinshasa from October 2-8, 2000. He worked with the “Civil Society Institutional Reform Working Group” in a two-day workshop on Comparative Constitutional Law and Constitution Drafting. The Working Group, composed of NGOs leaders, journalists, professors, lawyers and independents, benefited from Dr. Kende’s knowledge of American constitutional history and his experience in contributing to the present South African constitution. They will work to assess what needs to be done in DRC to produce a text that would be the basis for nationwide discussions and comments that would ultimately become the new constitution of the country. The consultation also provided an opportunity for the Working Group to discuss its accomplishments and future with Mr. Kende, who recommended some strategic changes to improve the Group’s work and purposes.

Ghana

Support for Ghana’s 2000 Elections

Under Project STEP 2000 (Supporting the Electoral Process 2000) IFES funded Electoral Commission meetings, training, and commodities for the conduct of the December 7 presidential and parliamentary elections.

MEETINGS

IFES funded two Electoral Commission planning meetings, one on October 31-November 1 and the other on December 1-2. These meetings permitted the members of the Commission, the heads of the technical departments, and the regional directors to

raise and resolve issues associated with the planning of the elections. IFES provided funding for one meeting of the Inter-Party Advisory Committee in every district in Ghana. At each of these meetings a senior Electoral Commission official from either the head office or the regional office and the District Electoral Officer met with the constituency chairpersons from the political parties to discuss the conduct of the elections. These meetings gave the local representatives of the political parties the opportunity to raise issues, and gave the Electoral Commission officers the opportunity to respond to them directly. The meetings built understanding of and support for the electoral process at the local level.

TRAINING

IFES contributed funds for the training of the polling assistants who will assist in operating polling stations on Election Day. The polling assistants learned how to properly check the identity of a voter and tick his or her name on the voter register, how to stain a voter’s thumb to prevent multiple voting, and how to distribute the ballot for President and for Parliament. IFES also contributed support for the training of the candidate agents who will observe the voting and vote-counting procedures at each polling station.

COMMODITIES

IFES supported the production and procurement of commodities needed for training, voter education, and transportation.

Commodities for training: IFES supported the production of training materials needed to train the temporary polling workers and the



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candidate agents, and to conduct the district IPAC (DIPAC) meetings. These included the “Guide to Election Officials 2000” and the accompanying manual for the trainers, different versions of the “Polling Day Guide” for polling assistants, candidate agents, and security personnel, and pens and notebooks for the trainees. IFES also funded the production of “DIPAC Notes” for the Electoral Commission officers who chaired the district Inter-Party Advisory Committee meetings.

Voter education posters: To further the Electoral Commission’s voter education campaign IFES funded the production of 120,000 copies of a poster titled “Voting Steps” that depicts the operations of a polling station. IFES funded the production of 101,000 copies of a poster titled “Women! Vote!” that encourages women to exercise their franchise, and 101,000 copies of a poster titled “How to Thumbprint Your Ballot” that depicts the correct and incorrect ways of marking a ballot.

Voter education radio announcements: IFES funded the production and airing of a radio announcement that reminds voters to bring their voter identity card when they come to vote. IFES funded the production and airing of a second radio announcement that warns voters not to attempt to impersonate another when voting. Both announcements were aired repeatedly on radio stations throughout the country for two weeks before the elections.

Transportation: The Electoral Commission lacked the fuel to operate the 1,600 vehicles needed to distribute the voting materials to the polling stations on Election Day. IFES procured coupons for Electoral Commission

workers to redeem for gasoline and diesel fuel in sufficient quantities at gas stations throughout the country.

Support for Parliamentary Debates

Through Project ECSELL (Enhancing Civil Society Effectiveness at the Local Level), the civic unions in 17 districts comprising 28 of Ghana’s 200 parliamentary constituencies received grants to sponsor debates for the candidates running for Parliament. The civic unions scheduled a total of 58 debates to be held from late September through mid-November.

The first debate was held on September 23 in the small town of Paga in Chiana-Paga constituency in northern Ghana. This debate was the first formal political debate ever held in Ghana’s history.

Due to tensions between the political parties, the authorities in four of the 17 districts ordered all planned debates cancelled. The four districts were Berekum in Brong Ahafo Region, Bongo in Upper East Region, Sefwi-Wiawso in Western Region and Yendi in Northern Region.

A total of 43 debates were held in the remaining 13 districts comprising 23 constituencies. The results of the exit polls conducted by the civic unions that sponsored each debate revealed that approximately one-third of the spectators at the debates were women. Over three-fourths (83%) of the spectators said that having listened to the candidates’ debate, they had a better understanding of the positions of the candidates on the issues.



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Kenya

IFES Conducts an Assessment Mission

On November 30, 2000, IFES issued a report on its August on-site assessment mission to Kenya. The assessment was funded by a Task Order issued under IFES' Elections and Political Processes Indefinite Quantity Contract (IQC). A three-person team, composed of Dr. Joel Barkan, a political scientist at the University of Iowa; Dr. David Carroll, Associate Director of the Democracy and Governance Program at the Carter Center; and Laurie Cooper, Senior Program Officer, Africa and the Near East, traveled to Kenya from August 6-25.

The purpose of the assessment was to look at a series of factors affecting the administration of elections in 2002, the five-year anniversary date of the last multiparty elections in Kenya. The team met with members of the Electoral Commission of Kenya, members of the National Assembly, civil society representatives, and international donor representatives during its three-week stay.

As elaborated in the report, preparations for the 2002 elections have already begun. The Electoral Commission of Kenya is implementing training programs for returning officers, and voter education programs for other members of the staff. Members of the National Assembly have tabled at least one election reform bill. Some civil society organizations, which have been working on the constitutional reform process, have begun to discuss methodologies for monitoring the upcoming elections. All of the preparations are taking place against a backdrop of uncertainty, as the nation waits for President

Moi to decide whether he will step down from the post he has held, elected and appointed, for more than 25 years. In addition, the violence that unfortunately characterizes Kenyan politics began in earnest in August. The report includes recommendations that the international community take diplomatic steps to condemn and hopefully reduce the incidence of violence in the coming months.

Liberia

IFES: The Fuel Behind Radio Veritas

As part of IFES' commodity assistance project to Monrovia based Radio Veritas, IFES extended its current Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to facilitate the provision of additional fuel support for the station's generator through the end of the year 2000. The MOU provided generator fuel that was crucial to extend the station's broadcasting time from mid-August through the end of October. Also during the month of October, IFES continued to work closely with the station to identify additional commodity needs that will increase the station's transmission capacities, improve its broadcasting quality and operational capability, and expand its audience outreach. Owned by the Liberian Catholic Church and managed by a ten-member Liberian board, Radio Veritas produces and broadcasts quality human rights, educational, reconstruction and national reconciliation oriented programming on short wave (SW) and FM.

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Madagascar

IFES Supports Malagasy Provincial Elections

IFES consultant Sylvie Belanger is in Antananarivo, Madagascar for 6 weeks to provide capacity building support to a local church-based NGO group in the area of election monitoring. The local organization, FFKM, is a group of 4 Christian churches involved in monitoring the December 3 provincial elections. FFKM will work in coordination with several other local NGOs as poll watchers for this election.

IFES' role is to develop a strategy for FFKM to observe and report on the provincial elections. IFES assisted FFKM in selecting which regional areas need coverage, how to select and train the poll watchers, organized a training of trainers for 125 local staff, who in turn will train approximately 3,500 poll watchers. Training materials and poll watcher checklists have been developed, printed and distributed. Poll watchers will observe both the vote and vote count in the elections, and will send their observations to a central location. These observations and results will be analyzed and distributed.

IFES is conducting this work under the Elections Process Indefinite Quantity Contract during the period November 3, 2000 – January 22, 2001. A subgrant will support FFKM in the training, observation and analysis phases of this activity. After the elections, IFES, FFKM and USAID will determine whether the activity should be extended.

Morocco

Third Set of IFES ROL Seminars

The third set of IFES ROL seminars took place in Rabat during the month of November 2000. Twenty Moroccan judges took part in the two-day seminar on comparative administrative law that took place at the Institut National des Etudes Juridiques (INEJ) on November 10 and 11.

18¹ other judges participated in the seminar on comparative commercial law on November 16 and 17. Christopher Johnson, a Washington based lawyer, and the Honorable George Steeh from Michigan and the Honorable Donald Walter from Louisiana, two federal judges, led the seminar presentations and discussions. Lazhar Aloui, the IFES Program Officer for the MENA region, coordinated the activities of the expert team.

The seminars focused on two general areas. Within administrative law, the discussion included expropriation, remedies, ethics and corruption, electoral laws and licensing. Commercial law themes consisted of contracts, franchise law, intellectual property, competition laws and arbitration.

IFES is currently studying the feasibility of implementing additional educational activities within the context of this ongoing project, as well as the development of an integrated project to promote judicial independence in Morocco.

¹ Because the following Saturday was a national holiday, the seminar was scheduled for Thursday and Friday at the suggestion of the Working Group and MOJ. Given that most trials are held on Thursdays, only 18 out of 28 nominated participants were able to attend.



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Nigeria

IFES/Nigeria Trains INEC Systems Administrators in Windows NT 4.0

The first round of IFES training for the staff of Nigeria's Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) kicked off on December 8th with the training of systems administrators in the basics of Windows NT 4.0. The training program was a recommendation by an INEC/IFES Joint Needs Assessment in 1999 and adopted as an objective in the INEC 2000 – 2003 Strategic Plan. Michael Yard, IFES Information Technology Consultant, conducted the training. Fifty-three systems administrators from all thirty-six states and the Federal Capital Territory were brought together for the 10-day program.

Future IFES training programs in Nigeria will include Visual Basic and Sequel Server in the area of Information Technology and basic election administration and voter education in the area of election administration. These training programs will begin in early 2001.

INEC AND IFES SIGN MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING



Richard Soudriette, IFES President, and Abel Guobadia, INEC Chairman, sign the IFES/INEC MOU.

IFES and the INEC have signed an MOU that details IFES and INEC collaboration in Nigeria through December 2001. The MOU, signed on November 8th by Richard Soudriette, IFES President and Abel Guobadia, Chairman of the INEC, lays the foundation for continuing the cooperative relationship developed between IFES and INEC during the past two years. The IFES program in Nigeria is funded by the United States Agency for International Development and the British Department for International Development. INEC/IFES activities planned for the next 15 months include training in systems administration for INEC's Information Technology staff, development and implementation of a training program in basic election administration for INEC's 774 electoral officers, and training in the development of comprehensive voter education programs. The agreement also includes a conference on the issue of formation and registration of political parties in Nigeria, a workshop to facilitate INEC and the 36 State Independent Electoral Commissions in developing cooperative relationships, and a number of events to promote the involvement of civil society in the electoral process.

Sierra Leone

IFES to Have On-Site Presence in Freetown

During the month of October, IFES received approval from both USAID and the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID) to fund Phase 1 of Project STEPP (Supporting the Electoral Peace Process). Designed to support Sierra Leone's evolving peace process, specifically



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the electoral process identified in the Lome Peace Accord (agreement signed by the Sierra Leone government and rebel forces to end the country's civil war), the first phase of the STEPP project allowed IFES to set up an on-site presence in Freetown, Sierra Leone during the first week of November. The IFES/Freetown office, headed by Simon Clarke, will work closely in both technical and commodity support to the new National Electoral Commission (NEC) of Sierra Leone. As part of its technical support to the NEC, IFES sent four members of the NEC to conduct a study mission to Ghana's December 7, 2000, presidential and parliamentary elections. During the first week of December, an additional four-member Sierra Leone delegation consisting of civil society leaders and political parties representatives will join the NEC members for the Ghana study mission.

South Africa

IFES Signs an MOU with the South African IEC

IFES is currently providing support to the South African Independent Elections Commission's (IEC) voter education efforts for the December 5, 2000, local government elections. To outline the assistance, IFES signed an MOU in October with the IEC detailing targeted assistance to the voter education efforts in Mpumalanga and Northern Provinces. IFES will complement the IEC's voter education efforts in the two provinces by providing funds to 13 South African NGOs to conduct voter education workshops, skits and develop and distribute voter education literature throughout the provinces. Following the elections, the

NGOs will issue reports on their voter education efforts.

Tanzania

IFES Observes 2000 Elections on Zanzibar

IFES sent a three member advance team to Zanzibar/Tanzania at the beginning of October to evaluate the feasibility of observing Zanzibar's October 29, 2000, presidential and House of Representatives elections. The October 2000 elections were the nation's second multi-party elections since independence. The study was determined to be necessary because the code of conduct for observers issued by the ZEC in September included several provisions that might restrict international observer activities.

Laurie Cooper, Senior Program Officer and two IFES consultants, Regina Larson and Jane Michuki, met with the US Ambassador, representatives of USAID/Tanzania and the Zanzibar Electoral Commission (ZEC). At the conclusion of October 1-6 assessment mission, the team recommended that the observer group be expanded.

Located off the coast of mainland Tanzania, the archipelago islands that form Zanzibar have limited self-rule that enables the islands' residents to vote for their own president, House of Representatives and local government. Additionally, the Zanzibar residents are also eligible to vote for the Union President and parliament. Unlike the 1995 observation mission that sent a majority of its observation team throughout mainland Tanzania, IFES deployed its entire observation team on Unguja and Pemba – the



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two largest islands where 95% of Zanzibaris live.

The IFES international delegation included 14 members. Led by Tom Bayer, IFES Director of Africa/Near East Programs, the IFES delegation was comprised of regional democracy and country experts from the Comoros Islands, Germany, Kenya, the Netherlands, Uganda, the US and Zambia. In addition to the team's diverse backgrounds and expertise, at least half of the team members were members of IFES' 1995 Tanzania/Zanzibar observation mission or could converse in KiSwahili (Tanzania – Zanzibar's native language).

On election day, IFES fielded 5 two-person teams throughout Unguja and two teams on the smaller island of Pemba. As the ballots were being counted on election day, the ZEC ordered the suspension of the vote count throughout Zanzibar due to a lack of materials at polling centers in 16 constituencies. The following day the ZEC ordered that all ballots and polling materials be stored at the district offices until further notice. With the ZEC refusing opposition political parties' requests to accompany the ballots and verify their security while being stored and transported to the district offices, the opposition parties and observer delegations suggested that new elections be held throughout the isles to preserve the transparency of the electoral process. Despite these recommendations, the ZEC, with the Tanzanian government's approval, decided to hold elections in the constituencies that did not receive ballots. The ZEC also announced that the ballots stored at the various constituencies would be counted following the rescheduled elections in the affected constituencies. IFES did not

observe the November 5 election re-runs and the vote count, which were boycotted by the opposition parties.

IFES will issue its final report on its observations and recommendations by the end of December 2000.

Uganda

Possible Extension of Support to UJCC

The Uganda Joint Christian Council (UJCC) submitted its final scheduled financial report for the \$186,408 provided by IFES as a sub-grant in supporting the organization's monitoring and reporting on the June 2000 referendum on Uganda's political system (whether the nation should remain a single party state or return to a multiparty system). The funds were used to organize training for monitors at the field and supervisory level; to supply the headquarters office with equipment to receive polling station checklists on referendum day, and to run a modified parallel vote tabulation. Since June, the monitoring cluster has produced three monitoring reports.

IFES Senior Program Officer Laurie Cooper made a brief stopover in Uganda in mid-November to meet with the UJCC and USAID/Uganda officials to discuss potential project activities for next year's presidential and parliamentary elections.

The UJCC requested approval to re-program approximately \$14,000 of remaining funds from the sub-grant to issue a series of educational documents concerning issues that



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candidates should focus on during the 2001 presidential and parliamentary elections.

Uganda/ Survey

Uganda Survey Final Report Published

In a follow-up to the September release of the results of the June 2000 IFES/Wilsken Uganda public opinion survey assessing attitudes on democracy, economy, civil society and gender, IFES/Washington published the final report detailing the survey's findings and methodology. The issuance of the final report in October, entitled "Democracy, Economy and Gender in Uganda: Report of a National Survey", concludes the public opinion survey project.

Yemen

Extraordinary Parliamentary Sessions to Amend Yemeni Constitution

Several extraordinary sessions were held in Parliament in November to discuss specific proposed amendments to the Constitution. Among the more contentious amendments were those relating to the extension of the presidential term and the extension of the mandate of the parliament. After much discussion among the major political parties, Parliament provided its final approval of all the proposed constitutional amendments on November 19, 2000. These must now be put before a national referendum that under Yemeni law must take place no later than sixty days after an approval is passed in parliament. In a recent press conference, the SEC Chairman stated that preparations are now underway for a referendum to be held around mid-February along with the elections of 301 local councils. They will use

the current parliamentary boundary structure as the basis for the local councils. IFES is currently developing a short-term strategy for possible assistance with the referendum and a long-term plan for the 2003 elections.

Hungary Study Tour

In early October, a delegation from the SEC, accompanied by Mazen Luqman, Deputy Project Manager for the Yemen field office, conducted a study tour of the National Election Commission of Hungary (NEC.) The study tour proved to be enormously informative for the SEC members. Voter registration and the organization of local councils are among the greatest difficulties with which the SEC must contend. During their stay, the SEC delegation was able to visit the Ministry of Interior's Central Data processing headquarters that handles the data management for the entire country. Ministry representatives explained how the Ministry had gone about unifying its data banks and gave a detailed overview of voter registration, issuance of national identification cards, birth and death records, and the networking of the election centers during a national election. During this past year, the Yemeni government and the international donor community have extensively discussed overhauling the current civil registry and incorporating a new system similar to that seen in Hungary.

From October 31-November 10, a delegation from the Supreme Elections Committee also conducted an election observation tour of the United States. The chairman of the SEC, Mr. Alawi Al-Attas, and the Director General, Dr. Abdulwahab Al-Qadasi, accompanied by IFES/Yemen Deputy Project Manager, Mazen Luqman comprised the delegation.



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The delegates were able to study a wide range of topics as actual decisions were being made in preparation for the 2000 elections. In particular, the Yemeni delegation was most interested with election coordination and election fraud.

During the delegation's visit to Washington, IFES was also able to hold a roundtable featuring Mr. Al-Attas. For the occasion, the Chairman held an informal discussion with members of the donor community and civil society about the current activities and goals of the Supreme Elections Committee.

Yemen

Regional Rule of Law Program

In November, experts Ronald Wolfe and El Obaid Ahmed El Obaid submitted an assessment report of the state of the rule of law in Yemen. The report is currently being reviewed to determine an appropriate set of project activities.



International Foundation for Election Systems

Africa/Near East Staff

**IFES/WASHINGTON
AFRICA AND NEAR EAST STAFF
1101 15th Street, N.W., Third Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005
Tel: (202) 828-8507
Fax: (202) 452-0804**

Tom Bayer, Director of Programs
(tbayer@ifes.org)

John Mitchell, Deputy Director of Programs
(jmitchell@ifes.org)

Laurie Cooper, Senior Program Officer
(laurie@ifes.org)

Sue Palmer, Senior Program Officer
(susan@ifes.org)

Lazhar Aloui, Program Officer
(laloui@ifes.org)

Ed Kiely, Program Officer
(ekiely@ifes.org)

Lori Yamamoto, Program Officer
(lori@ifes.org)

Mutale Chilangwa, Senior Program Assistant
(mutale@ifes.org)

Caroline Vuillemin, Senior Program Assistant
(caroline@ifes.org)

Christof Kurz, Program Assistant
(ckurz@ifes.org)

Lorraine Marulanda, Program Assistant
(lmarulanda@ifes.org)

Frederic Hebert, Program Assistant
(fhebert@ifes.org)

IFES FIELD OFFICES AND STAFF IN AFRICA AND THE NEAR EAST

IFES/Benin
Micheline Begin, Project Manager
(michelinebegin@hotmail.com)

IFES/Burundi
Philippe Lamarche, Project Manager
(leogane@hotmail.com)

IFES/Cote d'Ivoire
Elizabeth Cote, Project Manager
(ifes-ci@globeaccess.com)

IFES/Democratic Republic of Congo
(ifes@ic.cd)

IFES/Ghana
Steve Snook, Project Manager
(ssnook@ghana.com)

IFES/Nigeria
Joe Baxter, Project Manager
Senior Advisor for Election Administration
(ifesnigeria@beta.linkserve.com)

IFES/Sierra Leone
Simon Clark, Program Manager

IFES/Yemen
Antonio Spinelli, Project Manager
(ifes@y.net.ye)



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visit our web site:
www.ifes.org**

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