



AFRICA AND NEAR EAST



October 2000

Democratic Republic of Congo

Little Progress in the Peace Process

August signified the end of an era for IFES in the DRC. Program Manager Jeremy Heep and rule of law Coordinator Darlene Davis completed their respective tenures with IFES in Congo. Jeremy launched the DRC program back in April 1998, applying his considerable skill, boundless energy, and well-tuned saxophone to guide its evolution into the highly successful activity that it is today. Initially lending valuable support to IFES' field activities in general, Darlene dedicated her legal acumen and creativity to getting the IFES rule of law program up and running in record time. IFES' staff and friends in Kinshasa and Washington thank them sincerely and wish them well.

Little or no progress has been made on the DRC political front to advance the peace process. An August 14 meeting in Lusaka intended to put the original Lusaka Accord back on track was attended by President Laurent Kabila and all parties involved in the war, including rebel groups. The meeting ended in failure with Kabila maintaining his refusal to accept former Botswanan president Ketumile Masire as facilitator of the inter-Congolese dialogue, and to allow UN

peacekeepers unhindered access to all parts of the country. In the weeks that followed, rebel groups rejected offers by Kabila to set up a special commission to renegotiate the Lusaka Accord.

Fighting intensified in northern Equateur province between government forces and those of the Mouvement pour la Liberation du Congo (MLC). The MLC recaptured towns taken by the government in June. The DRC government and its allies sent reinforcements to the provincial capital Mbandaka. Sporadic attacks continued in the Kivus, including a grenade attack in Bukavu that resulted in eight deaths.

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US – DRC relations suffered a setback as the Kabila government expelled two US diplomats in August, accusing them of activities incompatible with their diplomatic status. The US State Department declared the charges false and outrageous, reciprocating with the expulsion of two Congolese diplomats from the US. Free expression in DRC suffered a setback as the government shut down 10 TV and radio stations in September, citing the stations' failure to abide by current legal regulations. Kabila installed the 300-member constituent and legislative assembly in Lubumbashi on August 21. A government committee appointed 240 members, with Kabila naming the remaining participants. Civil society and political opposition groups roundly condemned the initiative as undemocratic and subversive of the Lusaka peace process.

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan's September report to the Security Council deplored the lack of progress on the cease-fire, warning that an estimated 16 million people (33% of the population) was in critical need of food. The Secretary-General expressed grave concern over the status of human rights in the country, particularly in the rebel-held east.

Against this backdrop, IFES continued its program activities with its civil society interlocutors. Designed to provide civil society with access to information about the Congolese situation and on experiences in post conflict democracy promotion worldwide, the IFES program seeks to promote vision and leadership, and to help build public support for democracy and the rule of law in Congo.

Resource Center for Democracy, Elections, and the Rule of Law

The number of daily visitors to the IFES Resource Center for Democracy, Elections, and the Rule of Law averaged 168 – up from 110 over the previous two months. Helene Thivierge, a library expert from the Canadian Library of Parliament, completed a 10-day visit in August working with the IFES staff on cataloging and computerizing the collection, improving security measures and customer service, and planning for satellite resource centers in the provinces. The Center continued its program of free Internet access and training, daily distribution of international democracy news, outreach events in the 24 communes of Kinshasa, and distribution of key information to the interior.

Rule of Law-Great Lakes Justice Initiative

IFES' rule of law (ROL) program continues to gain momentum. In collaboration with one of IFES' local partners, the "Comité Droits de l'Homme Maintenant," the ROL team organized an August training session on negotiation and conflict resolution. The training, delivered to civil society representatives, focused on assisting the participants to become proactive, and less reactive, in the face of events in DRC. Case studies, coupled with a simulation exercise that divided the participants into four groups (armed opposition, non-armed opposition, government, and civil society), helped the trainees understand the importance of strategic debate, listening, and compromise.



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*Peace and Democracy - Consortium for
Elections and Political Process
Strengthening*

In September, following the highly successful IFES-sponsored June 2000 study tour to Benin, IFES staffers and civil society partners conducted report-back “restitution” seminars in the provinces of Katanga, Bandundu, and Western Kasai. The idea was to share the Benin experience and lessons learned as well as encourage IFES’ sometimes-isolated colleagues in the interior to continue their efforts to encourage a participatory and effective transition to peace and representative civilian government.

September was also marked by the return of IFES consultant Tessy Bakary to Kinshasa. Dr. Bakary, who worked with the DRC team last year, animated a series of workshop on “The Role of Civil Society in the DRC Crisis.” The visit proved beneficial to both IFES and its civil society partners offering a creative venue for useful reflection on the Lusaka impasse and civil society’s limited opportunities for substantive input. The workshops generated brainstorming on new approaches and strategies for upcoming activities and civil society’s long-term opportunity to advance Congo’s peaceful transition to democracy.

IFES has identified a new program manager for its CEPPS and ROL programs who should be on board by the end of October. In the meantime, senior program assistant Caroline Vuillemin has traveled to Congo to provide administrative and program support to the Kinshasa staff through late October.

AAEA

Second Newsletter Published

The AAEA newsletter no. 2 was published at the end of September and sent out to AAEA full and associate members as well as governments, international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. In the newsletter, David Kanga of the Electoral Commission of Ghana gives an update on the preparations of the December 7 elections in Ghana; Sue Palmer introduces the fledgling National Electoral Commission of Sierra Leone; Sie Jean de la Croix Pooda, Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission of Burkina Faso reports on recent changes to the country’s electoral laws; Joe Baxter offers an account of the Independent National Electoral Commission of Nigeria’s efforts to seek public input in reforming voter registration; Samuel Kivuitu, Chairman of the Electoral Commission of Kenya, describes the importance of voter education in Kenya; Flora Nkurunkenda, Deputy Chairperson of the Electoral Commission of Uganda, informs about the June 29, 2000 referendum on the political system in Uganda; and Dr. Baffour Ageyman-Duah of the Ghanaian NGO CDD and Dr. Afari-Gyan, Chairman of the Electoral Commission of Ghana, give accounts of their experiences as election observers during the parliamentary elections in Zimbabwe in June 2000.

Also at the end of September, with input from members, Dr. Afari-Gyan has finalized the development of a questionnaire on AAEA member election authorities’ institutional capacities. The questionnaire was sent out to the Association’s sixteen full members. The information provided in the questionnaire will form the core of an AAEA



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database on African election bodies and their institutional capacities.

Benin

Looking Towards 2001

On October 6, USAID extended funding to the Consortium for Elections and Political Processes Strengthening (CEPPS) for a joint IFES/NDI proposal to conduct a three-part (voter education, election administration assistance and political party pollwatching) election assistance program in anticipation of Benin's presidential elections. Those elections are currently scheduled for the first quarter of 2001.

IFES and NDI programs seek to promote a more transparent and democratic electoral process and bolster citizen confidence and participation in this process. IFES' program proposes to facilitate voter education through supporting a series of fora for election candidates and 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. NDI's program proposes to conduct a national training-of-trainers program for political party pollwatchers to observe the registration, voting and counting processes. Both programs will be designed and implemented in coordination with the Beninese government, election authorities, political parties, civil society representatives and other donors.

Burundi

Peace Agreement on the Horizon

On August 28, Burundi's warring political factions left Tanzania with a fragile power-sharing agreement to end country's seven-year civil war. The agreement is the result of two years of negotiations that began in June 1998 to end ethnic strife in Burundi. A civil war between the mostly Tutsi-dominated army and Hutu rebels began in 1993 and has killed around 200,000 people.

The agreement, if implemented, would put in place a transitional government in three to six months, create an upper house of parliament and split the country's army between Hutus and Tutsis. The transitional period would last three years, culminating in democratic elections and the creation of a new, ethnically balanced government.

Burundi's two main armed rebel factions, as well as hardline Tutsi parties, refused to sign the agreement and delegates stated that crucial issues dividing the sides remain unresolved.

On September 20, former South African President Nelson Mandela organized a follow-on meeting in Nairobi aimed to arrange a cease-fire. Regional heads of state—including Daniel Arap Moi of Kenya, Pierre Buyoya of Burundi, Yoweri Museveni of Uganda, Paul Kagame of Rwanda and Benjamin Mkapa of Tanzania--called for an immediate suspension of hostilities pending the conclusion of a ceasefire agreement within 30 days. However, the two main Hutu rebel groups refused to sign the cease-fire agreement and rebel attacks—particularly around the capital, Bujumbura—have been on the increase.

During August and September, the IFES team continued its efforts to officially



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register IFES in Burundi as an international non-governmental organization. Until the IFES rule of law program is registered with the Burundian government IFES is precluded from implementing any program activities. Meanwhile, IFES rule of law consultant Jean Lavoie is engaged in dialogue with a broad array of representatives from civil society and the international community on how best to engage civil society in order to obtain their input on implementation of the peace agreement.

Congo-Brazzaville

IFES Considers Program Options

IFES President Richard Soudriette and ANE Director Tom Bayer traveled to New York to meet Congolese President Denis Sassou-Nguesso. President Sassou, in the United States for the United Nations Millennium Summit, made time in his busy schedule to discuss the organization of elections in Congo in 2001 or 2002.

The President and members of his delegation presented an optimistic picture of the situation on the ground, pointing out that the January 2000 cease-fire had suffered few violations, and referencing tangible progress in disarmament and demobilization of Congo's various militias. The United Nations suggests that an estimated 630,000 of the over 770,000 Congolese internally and/or externally displaced by the war have returned home. In his discussion with IFES, President Sassou highlighted one of his government's preoccupations, the arrival of considerable numbers of refugees fleeing the ongoing hostilities in the neighboring Democratic Republic of Congo.

The organization of elections in civil war-ravaged Congo presents a wide range of complex social, political, and technical challenges. During his meeting with IFES, the President made special mention of citizen identification, voter identification, and constituency delimitation; noting that those were certainly the first of many significant areas of concern.

The 1997 resumption of hostilities in Congo brought IFES' technical assistance program in Brazzaville to an abrupt end. IFES looks forward to returning to Congo to make its own assessment of the potential for a return to popularly-elected civilian government in 2001 or 2002, and how IFES might best assist that transition process.

Côte d'Ivoire

Program Close-Out

On October 7, Côte d'Ivoire's Constitutional Court barred 14 of 19 candidates from running in October 22 presidential elections. Rejected candidates included RDR candidate, Alassane Ouattara, a former prime minister; former president H.K. Bedie; and former interior minister Emile Bombet. Only five names remain on the ballot including military leader General Guie and Laurent Gbagbo, leader of the Ivoirian Popular Front. Bitter debate about candidate eligibility, and Dr. Ouattara's candidacy in particular, coupled with increasing anti-foreigner sentiment caused hundreds of immigrants to leave the country prior to the October 7 ruling.

Following the announcement of the Constitutional Court decision, the US government announced the suspension of all



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election-related assistance to Côte d'Ivoire. IFES project manager Elizabeth Coté departed Abidjan on October 11.

Through the suspension of its program, IFES' assistance program focuses on civic education. From September 16-17, IFES supported a roundtable of 40 religious leaders. The purpose of the roundtable was to address political tensions; assist individuals from different social and religious backgrounds regain confidence in the electoral process; and help reinstate a true political dialogue based on tolerance, unity and justice. Most of Côte d'Ivoire's religious denominations participated in the event as well as representatives from political parties, local non-governmental organizations and the international community. Four well-respected religious leaders led lively debates on the basis for religious groups' intervention in the political debate; the objective limits to intervention; the terms of intervention and their knowledge of the electoral texts. One of the outcomes from this gathering included recommendations to re-activate a forum of religious groups and create a charter with a code of conduct. The event was covered by local media and broadcast on national television.

From September 28-October 1, IFES designed and conducted a civic education campaign in coordination with six civil society organizations. Forty-eight representatives from the six organizations traveled throughout the country to mobilize and inform the electorate on their civic rights and responsibilities through seminars, local radio, traditional griots and local information networks. In support of this campaign, IFES designed and produced 10,000 posters and 100,000 flyers for distribution throughout the

country. The fliers explain the value of the vote as the citizen's voice and the use of the single ballot.

Ghana

STEP 2000: Media Monitoring and Support for the EC

Under a sub-grant from IFES, the Center for Democracy and Development (CDD) in Accra is monitoring the state-owned media for fairness and equality of its coverage of the opposition political parties and candidates. Since May 2000, CDD has fielded 28 trained media monitors from Ghana to evaluate how political parties and individual candidates are represented in the print and electronic media. The monitors' findings are discussed in monthly meetings between the political party and media representatives.

Thanks to critical input from the participants at these media-political party fora, CDD was able to better instruct their monitors and tighten the reporting and analysis in its most recent report set to be published on October 3, 2000. In its report, CDD notes that the ruling NDC receives favorable treatment in the public media. In the private media, news articles tend to be more critical of the NDC. Private media devote a large share of their reporting on political parties to the main opposition parties NPP and CPP.

The participants at the media-political party fora have continued to commend the organizers of the media-monitoring project for doing an important job for the media and for providing journalists and political parties with a useful venue for airing complaints and resolving conflicts. The participating political parties have all observed that media



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coverage of their activities has markedly increased and improved in quality. They attribute this to the fora. The parties now seem to be addressing the main complaints of the media, namely providing sufficient notice to the news organizations about their events and remaining available for press interviews. To date, the NDC has yet to attend any of the media-political party meetings.

The Electoral Commission embarked on a voter card exchange exercise starting in the Northern Region at the end of July. The exercise involves replacing the thumb print voter ID cards with photo ID cards for about 6 million registered voters. This exercise is scheduled to end with the Greater Accra Region in mid November.

In August the EC also recruited and trained new returning officers for the receipt of nominations of candidates. Seven presidential candidates from the same number of parties filed nomination papers by September 13. A total of 1,081 candidates have registered to contest the 200 seats of Parliament in the December elections. Sixty-four (12.2%) of these are independent candidates. This figure is about 38.5 higher than the 1996 number of 780. The EC started procuring training materials in mid September for the training of election personnel scheduled to begin by mid-October.

At a meeting between IFES/Ghana and Electoral Commission Chairman Dr. Afari-Gyan in September, it was agreed that IFES would give support to the EC for the procurement of poll worker training manuals and posters as well as polling day guides to adequately equip polling stations and poll workers.

Project ECSELL: Support for Ghana's First-Ever Political Debates

Society Effectiveness at the Local Level) IFES is providing small grants to civil society organizations (CSOs) in the Project ECSELL districts to help them organize debates between parliamentary candidates in the run-up to the December 7 elections. At the end of July, IFES organized a workshop to train CSO representatives on how to organize and conduct public debates between candidates running for parliament. Debates will be conducted in 17 of Project ECSELL's districts, comprising 28 constituencies.

After the workshop the civic leaders returned to their hometowns and throughout the month of August began to plan and prepare for their debates. In mid-September, the Electoral Commission released the Notices of Nomination listing the 200 candidates that have filed to run for parliament in each constituency.

The first debate was held on September 23 in the small town of Paga in northern Ghana. All the candidates running in Chiana-Paga constituency participated except the candidate for the ruling NDC who agreed to participate but failed to show up for the event. The debate was held at the primary schoolyard and was attended by well over 1,000 people. This debate, held in a remote and thinly populated rural area near the border with Burkina-Faso, was one of the first formal pre-election political debates ever held in Ghana.



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Guinea

IFES to Strengthen Civil Society

In September IFES submitted a proposal to USAID to strengthen civil society and provide technical support to Guinea's electoral process. IFES' proposed 9-month program would seek to mitigate the potential for political and social crises; strengthen the Guinean population's access to unbiased information on democracy and peace; enhance civil society's ability to address pivotal election issues; and strengthen the capacity and transparency of the elections supervisory body, the *Haut Conseil Electorale (HCE)*.

Liberia

IFES Supports Independent Radio In Liberia

During the month of August, IFES/Washington received approval for a Grant extension and amendment for IFES' USAID funded Liberian Election Management Assistance (LEMA) Project. Originally scheduled to expire on October 31, 2000, the grant extension and amendment will allow IFES to provide commodity assistance to Monrovia based Radio Veritas through June 2001.

Since resuming its broadcasting operations in 1997, Radio Veritas has produced and broadcast quality human rights, educational, reconstruction and national reconciliation oriented programming on short wave (SW) and FM. Owned by the Liberian Catholic Church, it is run by an independent ten-member Liberian board which sets the station's policies and guidelines for its day-

to-day operations. The station is managed by a Liberian station manager, twelve administrative and programmatic support staff, ten reporters assigned to cover various beats, three broadcast technicians, one broadcast engineer and eighteen volunteer local language announcers.

Over the years, Radio Veritas established itself as the second most listened to radio station in terms of factual and unbiased independent information dissemination second only to Star Radio. With the Liberian government's closure of STAR Radio on March 15, 2000, Radio Veritas has now temporarily become the only independent radio station capable of reaching a majority of Liberians outside the environs of Monrovia. Through the provision of IFES procured equipment and fuel assistance, Radio Veritas will increase its transmission capacity, improve its broadcasting quality, operational capability and expand its audience outreach.

To facilitate the provision of the assistance, a preliminary MOU between Radio Veritas and IFES was signed in mid-August to assist the station meet its generator fuel needs for the months of August, September and October 2000. A longer-termed MOU outlining IFES' additional commodity and fuel support through June 2001 will be negotiated in October.



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Morocco

Regional ROL Program



Moroccan women judges participate in commercial law seminar

IFES staff and consultants have just departed Rabat after successfully organizing a second set of seminars on administrative and commercial law. A total of 48 Moroccan judges participated in the sessions and demonstrated a high level of interest in various aspects of the US legal system. Christopher Johnson and Ronald Pump, lawyers with considerable knowledge of legal systems in Middle East and North Africa, led the seminars. The seminar activity was yet another opportunity for IFES to identify the evolving needs of the Ministry of Justice and further solidify the IFES/MOJ partnership. Preparations are now being made to organize the third set of seminars, scheduled for mid-November in Marrakech.

Nigeria

INEC Completes Public Fora and Prepares for Election Observation in the U.S.

INEC Begins Review of Fora Submissions

The Nigerian Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has begun the process

of reviewing reports of its public fora on a draft electoral law and its plans for voter registration. Between July 27 and August 11, more than 10,000 people attended the fora held in the capitals of all 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory. In an effort to win public support for the design of a new voter registration system and a complete revision of the electoral law, the fora were organized by the INEC to obtain the views of political stakeholders and civil society on the future electoral process in Nigeria. Nigerians from all walks of life made hundreds of oral and written submissions. After going through the voluminous written reports and submission, the Commission will make changes to its draft law and voter registration mechanisms to reflect many of the views expressed during the fora. INEC's goal is to submit a final draft law to the Executive and the National Assembly by early next year.

INEC Officials to Observe US Elections

A team of six officials from the Independent National Electoral Commission of Nigeria will visit the Washington, DC area for 10 days during the run up to the US elections on November 7th. Chairman of the Commission Dr. Abel Guobadia, National Commissioner Chief (Mrs) Tola Ajayi, Kano State Resident Electoral Commissioner Alhaji Mohammed Danlami, Director of Finance and Supplies Olusegun Akanni, Director of Logistics and Planning Raymond Hundu and Alhaji Umar Farouk, Asst. Director Research and Statistics will make up the INEC team. Accompanying the team will be Senator Forence Ita-Giwa, Deputy Chair of the Senate Committee on Special Duties. Both Committees provide legislative oversight of INEC and the electoral process in Nigeria. The observer delegation will receive



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extensive briefings from election officials in Maryland and the District of Columbia. The observer mission is designed to provide Nigeria's election officials with a broader understanding of issues in election administration.

The new IFES/Nigeria office will open in Abuja on October 9. Program manager Joe Baxter has been busy since his return to Abuja in early September buying equipment for the office, setting up the utilities and hiring staff.

South Africa

Preparations Underway for Local Elections

During the month of August, IFES received approval to reprogram remaining funds from its 1998 USAID technical assistance project (that provided support to South Africa's national elections) to provide additional assistance to South Africa's November 2000 local government elections. Engaging IFES consultant Sandy Shuster as its South Africa Project Coordinator, IFES began discussions with the South African Independent Elections Commission (IEC) to provide support to the IEC's voter education program for the local government elections. To outline IFES' technical assistance to the program, Ms. Shuster and IFES' counterparts are finalizing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between IFES and the IEC.

In September, Aleta Williams, an IFES voter education consultant, joined Ms. Shuster in South Africa. During the month of September, Ms. Williams reviewed proposals for potential sub-grants to local South African NGOs that will provide additional

assistance to the IEC's voter education campaign. When approved, IFES' financial assistance will assist the NGOs target their voter education campaigns in the Mpumalanga Province and the Northern Province.

Tanzania

IFES sends team to observe upcoming elections

On September 29, IFES received USAID funding for an election observation mission to Zanzibar's October 29, 2000, presidential and parliamentary elections. During the first week of October, IFES will send an advance team to Tanzania and Zanzibar to evaluate whether an observation mission can indeed be conducted by internationally accepted standards. (The IFES team is scheduled to be in-country from October 1-6). In addition to meeting with the US Ambassador, the team is scheduled to meet with other US Embassy officials and representatives of USAID/Tanzania and the Zanzibar Elections Commission. Should the team's findings be favorable, IFES will field approximately 17-18 international observers from October 24 and through November 3rd.

Uganda

IFES extends its support of the UJCC

Although IFES phased out its on-site presence in July 2000, IFES continued to provide technical and financial assistance to the Uganda Joint Christian Council (UJCC), the local monitoring cluster that observed the June 29 Uganda referendum on the country's political system. To assist in the institutionalization of the lessons learned from the monitoring of the referendum



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process, IFES amended its subsequent subgrant to UJCC, extending the end date from August 31, 2000 through October 31, 2000 and increasing the total sub-grant amount from \$160,917 to \$186,408. The extension and amendment will allow the UJCC to fulfill its final reporting obligations on its monitoring experience and develop strategic plans for the monitoring of the 2001 presidential and parliamentary elections.

Uganda Survey Project

Survey Results reveal the view of democracy in Ugandan Society

During the month of September, IFES released the results of a joint IFES/Wilsken Agencies Ltd. public opinion survey assessing attitudes on democracy, economy, civil society and gender in Uganda. Conducted shortly before the June 2000 referendum, and based on a random national sample of 2,271 adult citizens, the survey found that many eligible adult voters express open-minded opinions about the form of government that is most appropriate for Uganda.

Among other things, the survey found that 84 percent of adult Ugandans think that “we should keep the present movement system,” while at the same time, 37 percent are willing to consider adopting a system of government based on “many political parties that compete in free elections.” The survey further revealed that:

- Ugandans do not distinguish clearly between elections and referenda, with 62 percent thinking that these two voting events are “the same thing.”

- Almost two-thirds of citizens consider the form of democracy practiced in Uganda to have “major” (32 percent) or “minor” (32 percent) shortcomings.
- Ugandan President Museveni scored a high job performance rating (93 percent approval). The performance of LC5 representatives and members of parliament was approved by 59 percent and 52 percent respectively.
- Clear majorities of citizens say they are satisfied with their own current living standards (57 percent) and the state of the national economy (62 percent). However, among the minority who know about it, only 29 percent are satisfied with the government’s structural adjustment program.
- The prevalence of popular concerns about poverty, hunger and purchasing power (37%) indicates that, even in the midst of national economic recovery, more than a few Ugandans think that a growing economy has left them behind.
- Despite giving government high marks for its performance at reducing crime (84 percent) and fighting AIDS (73 percent), fewer respondents approved the government’s performance at creating jobs (49 percent) and closing income gaps between rich and poor (17 percent).
- Approximately half of all men and two-thirds of all women think that a woman should be able to become President of Uganda.

Prior to releasing these results at a press conference in Kampala on September 20, IFES consultant Michael Bratton's presented the results of the IFES/Wilsken Uganda



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survey to the Ugandan President, members of parliament, the US Ambassador and other donor ambassadors. The final report detailing the survey methodology and results is scheduled to be published by mid-October 2000.

Yemen

Yemen's Electoral Future Remains Uncertain

There are a series of proposed constitutional amendments that could, among other things, extend the life of parliament by six years. Therefore, the next parliamentary elections would not take place until 2003. The parliament must decide by the end of October whether there will be a referendum on the constitutional amendments. By law, they are required to have a referendum within sixty days after the parliament reaches quorum. Thus the referendum would have to take place in November, before the holy month of Ramadan. As a cost-saving measure, the government has proposed holding local elections in conjunction with the referendum. Another consideration has been holding the local elections in April 2001, as was originally planned. The date of parliamentary elections directly depends on the outcome of the referendum. Members of the international community have expressed great reservations in moving up the local elections because the voter registration roll has not yet been updated and all citizens that came of age since last presidential election in 1997 would not be able to vote.

Program

In late August USAID awarded IFES an additional \$500,000 to continue technical assistance to the Supreme Elections Commission (SEC). Program manger Dennis

Cozens ended his contract with IFES on August 24, 2000. He visited IFES/Washington from August 30-September 7 to complete his end of contract report.

Mr. Cozens' valuable contribution to the IFES program was noted by his SEC counterparts and US government officials in pre-departure ceremonies held in Sana'a. IFES applauds Mr. Cozens for his dedication to the Yemen program and for his excellent work with the project team in Sana'a and in Washington.

Mr. Cozens' replacement, Antonio Spinelli, is scheduled to arrive in Sana'a on October 7, 2000. Prior to his appointment as project manager, Mr. Spinelli traveled to Yemen to provide on-site technical assistance in support of the April 2000 elections. An accomplished democracy promotion program designer and implementer, Mr. Spinelli looks forward to advancing the IFES program along the path established by the project team in Yemen and Washington and the SEC over the past year.

Hungary Study Tour

Mazen Luqman, deputy program Manager for IFES/Y, Mohammed Damaj, Vice Chairman of the SEC, and Abdallah Bamatraf, Finance and Administration Commissioner of the SEC will be conducting a study tour of the National Election Commission of Hungary (NEC) from October 6 –October 11.

Yemen

Regional Rule of Law Program

An assessment mission of the state of rule of law in Yemen was undertaken in August. Mr.

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Ron Wolfe and El Obaid Ahmed El Obaid visited Yemen from August 9-14. A report of their findings is expected in late October.



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Africa/Near East Staff News

In Septmeber, Mr. Lazhar Aloui, joined the Africa team as new Program Officer for Middle East and North Africa. He comes to us from Macedonia where he worked for Relief International as Country Director for the Balkans. He is a graduate of the Fletcher School for Law and Diplomacy and American University.

Frederic Hebert, is the new Program Assistant for Western and Central Africa. He graduated from Kansas State University. Previously, he served as an intern for the Americas and Africa divisions.

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