



Weekly Special Report

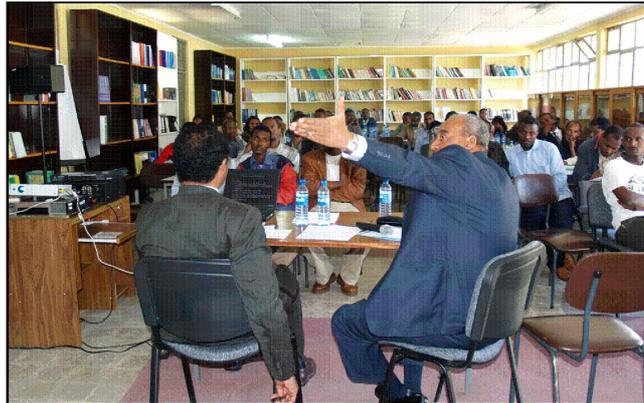


Produced by the Public Affairs Section

INSIDE

“Ethics and Civic Education” Seminar: Addis Teachers Call for Encore

PAS Addis organized a two-day Seminar on Ethics and Civic Education, held October 20-21, 2007. The seminar was successful and inspired a resolution to hold similar seminars and meetings with other civic educators and policymakers in Ethiopia in the future. Seminar participants included 40 high school teachers and 10 civic education department heads representing 10 sub-city education offices.



U.S. Scholar Dr. Mekonen Haddis explaining a power point presentation

PAO Michael McClellan and Ato Kasahun Tassew, Deputy Head of Addis Ababa City Bureau of Education, opened the conference.

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Bush To Congratulate Kabila Personally on Congo’s Elections

*By Stephen Kaufman
USINFO Staff Writer*

Washington -- President Bush’s October 26 meeting with President Joseph Kabila of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) will provide an opportunity to underscore U.S. support for the DRC’s “remarkable progress” since Kabila assumed office in 2001, including the country’s historic 2006 elections, a State Department official said.



*President Joseph Kabila
President of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)*

Kabila “deserves a great deal of credit” for DRC’s transition since 2001, the official said. In six-and-a-half years, the country saw the withdrawal of all foreign armies, the beginning of economic recovery and an internal political dialogue between former rivals and Congolese civil society that led to the first free and fair elections since 1960. “It’s really quite a remarkable record of accomplishment,” said Deputy Assis-

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US Speaker addresses Addis Ababa University, School of Journalism on “Ethics, Governance, and the Role of the Media”

U.S. Speaker Dr. Makonnen Haddis, award-winning public educator, consultant and poet, spoke to 20 students and faculty at the Addis Ababa University School of Journalism on October 16, 2007 on “Ethics, Governance and the Role of the Media.” As part of his presentation, Dr. Mekonen read two of his poems devoted to democracy, “The Secret” and “Requirement for Progress.” Following the presentation students asked questions about the role of free press, private press, public press and Government press.

Students and faculty commented that they were impressed with the level of dialogue and discussion that followed the lecture. The discussions reflected on the current level of professionalism in the media in Ethiopia, a country undergoing a

democratization process. Dr. Mekonen stressed the role that students would play after graduation when they join the media sector. He urged professionalism and balanced reporting, as well as the need for serious research for credible information.

Some attendees were intrigued by the speaker’s concept that citizens were made, not born, and, therefore, needed civic education. Some graduate students said they found the lecture



Participants of the AAU School of Journalism Lecture with Dr. Mekonen Haddis (middle) and CAO Patricia Johnson (right) at the School Building.

to be very useful, and directly relevant to their theses.♦

“Ethics and Civic Education” Seminar: Addis Teachers Call . . .

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The seminar’s keynote speaker, U.S. scholar Dr. Mekonen Haddis, described ethics in government and democracy and the place of civic education within U.S. schools. In his presentation, Dr. Mekonen revealed different dimensions of civic education, and analyzed the role and challenges of civic education during societal change. He initiated discussion around topics such as

democracy and citizen responsibility. Seminar participants also discussed the current situation of the civic education in Ethiopia and described the status of civic education in their schools.

Civic education is a priority of Ethiopia’s educational policy, essential for the development of democracy and civil society in Ethiopia. The seminar provided an opportunity for high school educators to

study and engage in discussion of important topics in the American civic education system.♦

United States Helping To End Abusive Child Labor in Africa

*By Susan Domowitz
USINFO Special Correspondent*

Washington -- Three African countries -- Democratic Republic of the Congo, Togo and Uganda -- will receive \$16 million from the United States for projects to eliminate the worst forms of child labor.

The grants, announced October 1 by Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao, will be used to provide children in need with access to quality basic education and vocational training opportunities and to collect reliable data on child labor in these countries.

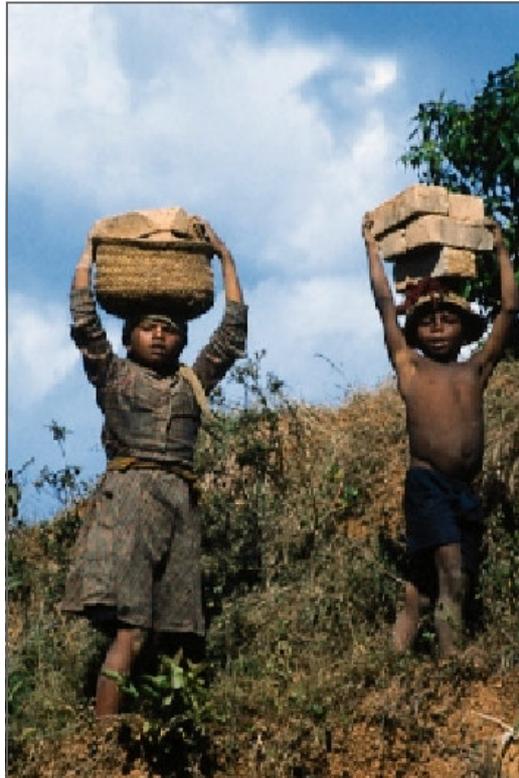
The \$16 million is part of a larger \$54 million in worldwide grants from the U.S. Department of Labor made in the fiscal year that ended September 31. "These \$54 million in grants continue our efforts to eliminate abusive child labor practices around the world," Chao said in a press release.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda will each benefit from \$5.5 million grants focusing on war-affected children in conflict zones.

The grant in Democratic Republic of the Congo will be administered by the international nonprofit group Save the Children Foundation, in association with the U.S.-based American Center for International Labor Solidarity. The grant in Uganda will be administered by the International Rescue Committee (IRC), in partnership with the nonprofit Association of Volunteers in International Service-USA (AVSI-USA). Togo will receive a \$5 million grant, administered through the U.N. International Labour Organization (ILO).

Many children throughout the world continue to be involved in dangerous and demeaning work that robs them of their childhood and often their future, according to the Department of Labor's 2006 report, *The Worst Forms of Child Labor*.

The worst forms of child labor are defined as work that is likely to



Young brick carriers in Madagascar

harm children's health, safety or morals, such as the use of children in armed conflict, domestic labor, trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation, and dangerous work in the agricultural and informal commercial and service sectors of the economy.

According to ILO's *Global Report on Child Labour 2006*, even though abusive child labor has generally declined worldwide, there has been only a slight decline in the practice

in Africa. Worldwide, 74 million working children aged 5 to 14 still perform hazardous work. Democratic Republic of the Congo is among several countries that are addressing the issue of child labor in broader policy initiatives and plans, according to the Department of Labor report.

"Projects funded by the Department of Labor's Bureau of International Labor Affairs have helped more than 1 million children around the world to either leave exploitive work situations or avoid facing a similar fate," said Deputy Under Secretary of Labor for International Labor Affairs Charlotte Ponticelli. "These children have been given a chance to rebuild their lives."

The full text (<http://www.dol.gov/ilab/programs/ocft/PDF/2006OCFTreport.pdf>) (PDF, 706 pages) of the Department of Labor's report on international child labor and a press release (<http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/ilab/ILAB20071498.htm>) about the grants are on the department's Web site.

Additional information (http://www.ilo.org/global/Themes/Child_Labour/lang-en/index.htm) about the ILO's efforts to combat child labor is available on that organization's Web site.

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U.S. Companies Urged To Invest in African Infrastructure

Washington -- U.S. and African business leaders and officials are encouraging U.S. companies to take a bolder approach to investment opportunities created by rapid economic growth in Africa.

At an October conference on infrastructure organized by the Corporate Council on Africa (CCA), they urged U.S. companies not to wait for an ideal business climate but to consider investing now in up-and-coming sub-Saharan countries.

With lower inflation rates, improved budgets and economic policies, and greater political stability, sub-Saharan nations have a better chance than ever to sustain growth, according to an October report by the International Monetary Fund.

African leaders are particularly keen on foreign investment in infrastructure because their countries cannot afford to develop, modernize or maintain roads, ports, airports, electricity grids and power stations. The needs are great, experts say, because infrastructure in sub-Saharan Africa never has been well developed and civil strife often has damaged what existed. To reach international goals of reducing poverty and hunger, African countries need to double their investment in infrastructure to about \$40 billion a year, according to the World Bank.

Without substantial infrastructure improvements, African nations will have difficulty diversifying their economies and facilitating international trade, experts say.

The head of the Export-Import Bank of the United States (Ex-Im Bank), James Lambricht, said that, during his recent trip to South Africa and Namibia, he learned about "immense" infrastructure plans. "Even if only some of them come to

fruition, there will be tremendous need for financing," he said.

Ex-Im Bank provides loan guarantees, credit insurance and loans to U.S. companies exporting to developing markets.

Complex and capital-intensive infrastructure projects with relatively long payback periods are difficult to put together and finance, experts say, particularly in countries where financial markets are underdeveloped and political risk is high. That is why such projects, which can cost billions, often are developed by public-private partnerships and involve foreign and local partners. Forming such partnerships requires knowledge of local markets and their peculiarities as well as confidence and trust among potential partners.

Lambricht said sometimes it is possible to sell capital equipment to a less well-known company in a developing country if that company has a local or regional partner that is better known.

But in many other cases, an honest broker or "deal champion" is necessary to bring together multilateral banks; export credit agencies; private companies, banks or funds; and the host-country government, experts say.

CCA President Stephen Hayes told USINFO that South African banks and investment funds increasingly vie to play such a role for U.S. companies and those based in other nations.

Also, U.S. agencies that support trade have begun targeting infrastructure projects in Africa. By providing technical assistance, credit guarantees and political risk insurance or by financing feasibility stud-

ies, they have backed projects ranging from a railway and hydropower and geothermal power stations to telecommunication networks, pipelines and housing projects.

Hayes said U.S. companies can compete successfully in several areas -- such as housing, roads, hotels and water and sanitation systems -- where great opportunities exist.

Yet "we don't deploy private equity aggressively enough and early enough," said Robert Mosbacher, the head of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC). OPIC provides political-risk insurance to U.S. companies doing business in developing nations.

Hayes said the United States has not been keeping up with South Africa, China, Europe, India and Gulf countries, which all have been investing heavily in Africa. U.S. corporations' and banks' cautious approach to investment in the region stems from predominantly bad publicity it receives in the U.S. media, he said.

Another obstacle is the limited opportunity to finance African projects, particularly those concerning infrastructure, Hayes said.

Hayes sees signs of budding interest in such projects, though. Oracle and Citibank have positioned themselves in South Africa to take advantage of the burgeoning opportunities on the wider African continent, he said. Several Wall Street firms have established investment teams to explore infrastructure opportunities in developing countries that may consider African projects. In addition, Delta Air Lines in December 2006 began the first regular service between Atlanta and Johan-

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Bush To Congratulate Kabila Personally on Congo's . . .

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tant Secretary of State for African Affairs James Swan.

Speaking with USINFO October 23, Swan said the United States is interested in "forging a close partnership with the Congo in terms of not only deepening its democratic transition, but also in terms of supporting Congolese efforts to address the continued challenges."

The upcoming White House meeting should be viewed as part of the continued diplomatic engagement the United States has had with the DRC since the late 1990s to support a peaceful resolution of the country's conflict and to "move Congo toward full democracy," he said.

Bush intends to congratulate Kabila and the Congolese people on their accomplishments and will discuss the need to "further entrench functional democratic institutions in the country," Swan said. Although the DRC has not enjoyed a functioning democracy for most of its post-independence history, "we've seen quite significant progress, certainly over the last six-and-a-half years, and we fully expect that progress to continue" as the country decides how its parliament will relate to the executive branch and works to improve the capability of its judiciary.

Presidents Bush and Kabila also are expected to discuss the situation in

eastern DRC and "ways in which the United States can be supportive of efforts to bring that situation to a peaceful resolution," including reconciliation efforts. Swan said the Bush administration wants to see the extension of Congolese state authority throughout the country, particularly in the Kivus and the Ituri region, where armed groups have been free to operate.

"We are looking in the near term also at expanding some activities to support intercommunal dialogue in the Kivus, to try to continue with demobilization and disarmament and reinsertion activities in Ituri and northern Katanga as well as the Kivus, and to assist in security sector reform," Swan said. "The Congolese need to have capable security forces if they are going to establish genuine sovereign control over the entire country."

Along with bilateral activities, the United States also supported peace efforts in the U.N. Security Council and is the major contributor to the U.N. Mission in Congo (MONUC), the world's largest peacekeeping mission.

Asked about a recent report from the nongovernmental group Human Rights Watch that criticized a slow response to renewed violence in eastern DRC, Swan said the Bush administration takes the recent spike in violence seriously and has had high-level contacts on the issue with the governments of DRC and

Rwanda. Also, he said MONUC is "a key element" in trying to resolve the violence.

"While we are concerned about the situation in eastern Congo and while we are working very actively to try to find a peaceful resolution, I think [the recent violence] also needs to be viewed against the backdrop of really quite dramatic improvement in the region as a whole over the last five years," Swan said, including positive developments in Uganda, Burundi and Rwanda, as well as the DRC.

Economic development issues also could be on the two leaders' agenda, and Swan said the United States has maintained a "very robust assistance program" in the country for many years, amounting to about \$70 million to \$80 million per year, and "sometimes slightly higher in recent years."

U.S. bilateral assistance covers humanitarian response activities, such as supporting refugees and providing health care aid to the DRC as it continues to emerge from years of conflict. Swan said there are also a variety of programs designed to stimulate economic growth.

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Louisiana Elects First Indian-American U.S. Governor

Washington -- Bobby Jindal made history on October 20 when Louisiana voters chose him, the son of Indian immigrants, as their next governor. He is the first Indian American to be elected as a state's chief executive.

petitors were Democrat Walter Boasso, with 18 percent of the vote; Independent John Georges with 14 percent; and Democrat Foster Campbell with 13 percent. Eight other candidates also sought the governor's house. Boasso and Geor-

perform many of the same functions at the state level that the U.S. president does at the national level. The 36-year-old Republican will be the nation's youngest governor, joining a short list of serving governors born after 1960. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfileenglish&y=2006&m=November&x=20061130185038abretnuh0.9418451>).

When he takes the oath of office in January 2008, Jindal also will become Louisiana's first nonwhite governor since Reconstruction, a period following the U.S. Civil War in the mid-19th century. P.B.S. Pinchback, a black Republican, served briefly as governor between 1872 and 1873, at a time when many white voters were disenfranchised because they supported the southern states that sought to form a separate nation during the Civil War.

INDIAN ROOTS

Jindal was born in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, in 1971, but his family's hometown is Maler Kotla in India's northern Punjab state. His parents left Maler Kotla to enable his mother to study at Louisiana State University.

"My folks came to this country in pursuit of the American Dream," Jindal said during his victory speech in Baton Rouge on October 20. "And guess what happened -- they found the American Dream to be alive and well right here in Louisiana!"

Although his given name is Piyush, Jindal in 1975 began calling himself Bobby, after the youngest son on the Brady Bunch television show.

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Louisiana governor-elect Bobby Jindal celebrates with his wife and son on election night in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, October 20. (AP Images)

When he made his victory speech, Jindal had garnered 53 percent of the 625,036 votes counted, with about 92 percent of the vote tallied. That majority vote granted Jindal victory without facing a runoff election on November 17. Unlike other U.S. states, Louisiana holds an "open" election in which all registered candidates, regardless of party affiliation, compete. Louisiana requires its elected officials to win by more than 50 percent of votes cast -- a majority -- rather than a plurality, which awards victory to candidate with the most votes. The governor-elect's nearest com-

petitors were Democrat Walter Boasso, with 18 percent of the vote; Independent John Georges with 14 percent; and Democrat Foster Campbell with 13 percent. Eight other candidates also sought the governor's house. Boasso and Geor-

In the United States, the structure of state government loosely mirrors that of the federal government with executive, legislative and judicial branches. As governor, Jindal will

Muslim American Filmmaker To Discuss Video Project on Ramadan

Muslims in the United States and around the globe have concluded their observances of Ramadan, a month of fasting, prayer and contemplation. Muslim-American filmmaker Anisa Mehdi has spent the last several weeks capturing images of Americans as they observe this important month.

On October 24 at 3:45 p.m. EDT (1945 GMT), please join Mehdi to discuss Ramadan in America through the lens of a filmmaker, how you can view her short films, and other questions related to her life in America.

Mehdi is an Emmy award-winning journalist specializing in religion, the arts and people. For more than 20 years, she has reported, written, and directed and produced television news and documentary programs for major American media outlets, including National Geographic, PBS, ABC News and CBS. She is producer/director of Inside Mecca, the National Geographic special that premiered on PBS October 22, 2003, and played to audiences worldwide on National Geographic Channels International. She led several teams of photojournalists covering the Hajj pilgrimage in



Anisa Mehdi is an Emmy Award-winning journalist and filmmaker who specializes in reporting on religion and the arts.

February 2003, focusing on the journeys of three individuals from the United States, Malaysia and South Africa. She writes perspective pieces for newspapers, magazines and Internet sites and lectures worldwide on Islam and the media. If you would like to participate in

this webchat, please sign up on the USINFO Webchat registration page (<http://webchat.state.gov/?tid=unsecure.register>). Please tell us your preferred screen name; use of full names is not required.

If you have participated in one of our previous webchats, use the same e-mail. (You no longer need to enter a password.) You may submit questions in advance.

We accept questions and comments in advance of, and at any time during, the program. You may also e-mail (<mailto:usinfowebchat@state.gov>) questions without registering.

The transcript of this webchat will be available on USINFO's Webchat Station (<http://usinfo.state.gov/usinfo/Products/Webchats.html>), where information about previous and upcoming webchats also is available.

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U.S. Companies Urged To Invest in African . . .

(Continued from page 4)

nesburg and plans to expand U.S. connections to more African destinations.

But Hayes said the U.S. government needs to be more engaged and give more support to U.S. companies to get them to push more aggressively into Africa. So far, he said, it has not supported U.S. private sector efforts as strongly as

the governments of China, India and South Africa have supported efforts by their own companies.

Lambright of Ex-Im Bank said, however, that there are limits to what the U.S. government can do.

U.S. companies and export credit agencies are disadvantaged, he said, because they are bound by Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) good

governance regulations and other rules, which do not apply to firms from emerging markets. OECD, with 30 member nations, represents developed countries committed to fostering prosperity and fighting poverty through economic growth and financial stability.

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Sufi Poet and Mystic Rumi Remains Compelling to American Readers

By Howard Cincotta
USINFO Special Correspondent

Washington -- Ask Americans who is the most popular poet in the country today, and they might guess Walt Whitman or Robert Frost.

Many might be surprised to learn that the correct answer (measured either in public interest or total book sales) is the Sufi mystic and poet known as Rumi (Jalal ad-Din Mohammad Balkhi), born 800 years ago in Central Asia.

Rumi (1207-1273) continues to fascinate and engage -- regardless of

culture, race or language -- and American scholars and readers are among the smitten.

The source of Rumi's sustained popularity in the United States also crosses barriers of time and global cultures. It is his powerful ability at "evoking ecstasy and the divine," says Islamic scholar Seyyed Hossein Nasr. "His poetry has the power of universality."

New translations of Rumi's voluminous works continue to appear; scholarly studies of his life and work proliferate; and renditions of his poems are being set to music on stages, CDs and the Internet in the United States and around the world.

To honor Rumi, as scholar, writer, and poet, UNESCO has designated 2007 -- the 800th anniversary of his birth -- as the International Year of Rumi. UNESCO marked the occasion with a day-long seminar at its headquarters in Paris, along with an exhibition of books, manuscripts and paintings related to Rumi's life and work.

An international conference on Rumi is planned for Tehran, Iran, in late October.

In the United States, the Center for Persian Studies at the University of Maryland sponsored a three-day conference, September 28-30, "to explore Rumi's poetry and vision

as well as his continued relevance to the world."

LITERARY IMPACT

American poet W.S. Merwin has written, "At the heart of Rumi's teaching is the immensity of love ... a surrender to a divine presence."

This divine presence, or "Beloved," is often evoked through Rumi's celebrated friendship with the wandering Sufi mystic Shams, with whom Rumi sought a spiritual oneness.

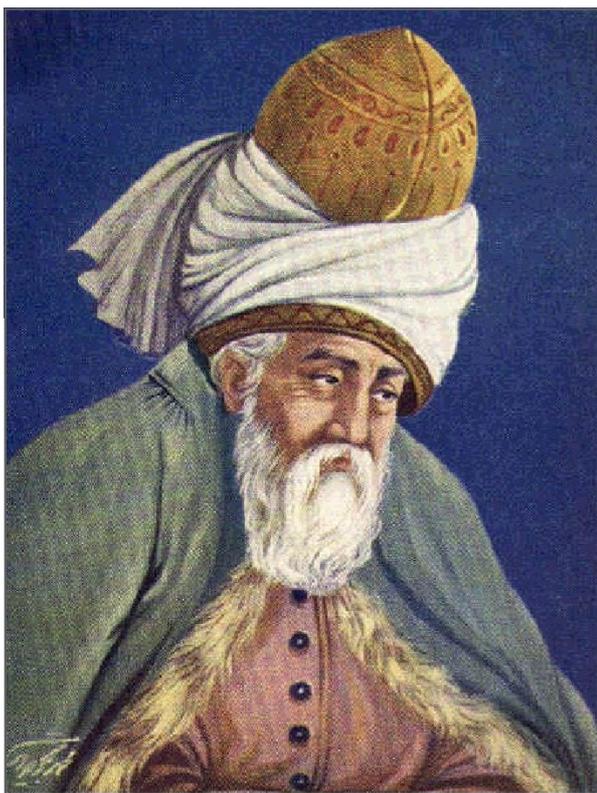
Scholar Franklin Lewis credits American poet and professor Coleman Barks, author of *The Essential Rumi* and *Rumi: The Book of Love*, as the man "who, more than any other single individual, is responsible for Rumi's current fame." (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfileenglish&y=2005&m=March&x=20050315183204ndyblchs0.8505365>).

In 1976, the poet Robert Bly handed Barks a translation of Rumi's work, written in stiff, old-fashioned language, and said, "These poems need to be released from their cages."

Neither man -- Bly nor Barks -- could read Persian. (Barks initially worked from the existing English versions but later shifted to literal line-by-line translations by Persian-speaking scholars.)

"His poems have never been for me, or for most readers, museum curios from the 13th century. They

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Rumi was born in 1207, in Balkh, which is in Afghanistan. His father was an important scholar and teacher of that area. Around 1212 he moved his family to Smarkand, a city where the cultures of both Turkey and Persia met. The Mongol invasions were bringing death and destruction to a large part of the Muslim world at that time, and Rumi's family and friends, journeyed westward to escape it.

Profile of Suicide Terrorist Defies Common Stereotypes

Washington -- Suicide terrorists defy stereotypes. They may be young or middle-aged or even children, married or single, men or women, educated, religious or not, according to a growing body of information, experts say.

In a study of terrorism by Dr. Marc Sageman of Sageman Consulting in Maryland, terrorists like the ones who attacked the United States in 2001 came from middle-class backgrounds, not from poverty as sometimes is thought. "This has been true for most political movements, including terrorist movements, and al-Qaida is no different," he writes in a recent issue of eJournal USA (<http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/https/0806/ijpe/ijpe0806.htm>).

Sageman, a forensic psychiatrist and terrorism researcher, cites a study in which he examined more than 400 al-Qaida-affiliated terrorists from the Middle East, Southeast Asia, Northern Africa, and Europe. The study showed only about 13 percent went to madrasas, or religious-based schools, often thought to be a source of new suicide attackers. Sageman said that the vast majority of terrorists in his study, about 84 percent, were radicalized in the West, rather than in their former countries.

Research also indicates that many new terrorists often are self-selected and self-radicalized, and follow kin and friends into terrorist organizations to commit suicide attacks, experts say.

Studies conducted by Harvard researcher Jessica Stern indicate that many young terrorists who have chosen to become suicide attackers

developed a deepening radicalization from a perceived humiliation, a theme supported by Scott Atran, director of research in anthropology at France's Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS) and a recent visiting professor at the University of Michigan.

Writing in the Washington Quarterly, Atran says understanding the theme of humiliation in terms of how they have been treated by foreign forces is important to under-



*Dr. Marc Sageman,
An independent researcher on
terrorism*

standing Islamists' rage. Individuals who choose to commit suicide bombing attacks often are influenced more by values and identity with the terrorist group than by other considerations for their own well-being, he says.

"The motivations for suicide attacks are not so different in many ways from the motivations for other types of terrorism, including attention to a cause, personal notoriety,

anger, revenge and retribution against a perceived injustice," says Audrey Kurth Cronin, a former specialist in terrorism with the Congressional Research Service, which is part of the U.S. Library of Congress.

Cronin said that for some suicide bombers the act of "martyrdom" may offer a chance to impress others or offer an opportunity to be remembered. "Suicide attackers are sometimes widows or bereaved siblings who wish to take vengeance for their loved one's violent death," she said.

"Suicide bombing initially seemed the desperate act of lone individuals, but it is not undertaken alone," Bruce Hoffman, a professor of security studies at Georgetown University's Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service writes in "The Logic of Suicide Terrorism" in the magazine Atlantic Monthly.

For additional information, see "Suicide Terrorism on the Rise Worldwide, Experts Say" (<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfileenglish&y=2007&m=October&x=20071011104652dmslahrellek0.8995325>)."

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Sufi Poet and Mystic Rumi Remains Compelling to . . .

(Continued from page 8)

are food and drink, nourishment for the part that is hungry for what they give. Call it soul," Barks has written of Rumi's work.

As Rumi wrote in one poem,

What was said to the rose that made it open
Was said to me, here in my chest.

This is the world of spiritual longing, for unity with the divine, as in this Barks translation of a well-known Rumi poem:

Out beyond ideas of wrongdoing and rightdoing,
there is a field. I'll meet you there.

When the soul lies down in that grass,
the world is too full to talk about.
Ideas, language, even the phrase "each other"
doesn't make any sense.

UNIVERSALITY

One element of Rumi's appeal, scholars agree, is his sense of inclusiveness, his ability to bridge the barriers of religion and culture, which is one reason UNESCO has chosen to honor the man who said, "I do not distinguish between the relative and the stranger."

At the Maryland conference, Baqer Moin, former head of the BBC Persian Service, observed that Rumi managed the remarkable feat of unifying Iranians, Afghans and Turks, among others. "How? They all agree that 'Rumi is ours,'" he said.

The conference drew a remarkable range of scholars whose education and backgrounds in Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Canada and the United States reflect the depth and breadth of Rumi's continuing influence.

Ahmet Karamustafa, professor of Islamic studies at McGill University in Montreal, explored the complexity of "voices and audiences" in Rumi's masterwork of mystical exploration, the Masnavi. Other conference participants debated subjects as far ranging as the traditions of poetic language in Persian Sufi writing, the conundrum of translation and Rumi's use of folktales and fables.

Nusrat Ul-Ghani, a media consultant born in Kashmir, said that more than 28,000 Web sites on MySpace alone have Rumi references. YouTube has posted 2,200 videos related to Rumi.

Vocalists and performers have recited Rumi's lines, Ul-Ghani wrote, "From Madonna to Demi Moore in North America, to Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan in the Indo-Pakistani subcontinent and Dawlatmand Khal in Central Asia, from Shahram Nazeri and Shajarian in Iran to Ostad Sarahang in Afghanistan."

In announcing the International Year of Rumi, UNESCO said, "He remains one of the greatest thinkers and scholars of Islamic civilization. The peoples of Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Turkey consider him to be their own poet. He addressed humanity as a whole."

And where would Rumi place himself in this world? Scholar Seyyed Nasr quotes these lines:

Neither of the East am I nor West,
nor of the land, nor sea;
Nor of nature's quarry, nor of heavens circling above.
I am not made of earth or water,
nor of wind or fire ...

My place is the placeless, my mark the markless;
Not either body nor soul for I am myself the Beloved

More information (<http://www.languages.umd.edu/persian/C-Rumi-state.php>) on the International Conference on Rumi is available on a University of Maryland Web site.

More information (http://portal.unesco.org/culture/en/ev.php-URL_ID=34694&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html) on the International Year of Rumi is available on the UNESCO Web site.

More information and audio clips (<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=14775838>) on Rumi can be found on the National Public Radio Web site.

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Using Children as Suicide Attackers Increases Sense of Barbarity

Washington – "When they first put the vest on my body I didn't know what to think, but then I felt the bomb," recalls 6-year-old Juma, who says he was tricked into wearing an explosive vest by a Taliban insurgent in Afghanistan.

The insurgent told him that if he pushed the detonator button it "would spray flowers."

Once Juma realized what it was he notified Afghan security forces. The boy was selected to kill others with an explosive vest because it was believed he would easily slip past security forces that would be unlikely to suspect a child suicide bomber, terrorism experts say.

"The use of children, in particular, suggests that the [terrorist] groups responsible for their 'recruitment' are seeing a need to employ increasing extremes of barbarity," says Tom Koenigs, the U.N. secretary-general's special representative for Afghanistan.

In April, the Taliban used a 12-year-old boy to behead a Pakistani they believed was a spy. The father of the beheaded man said, "The Taliban are not mujahedeen (which fought successfully against the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan). They are not fighting for the cause of Islam ... They are the enemies of Islam. They are behaving like savages."

According to terrorism experts, the use of children in suicide attacks, although still infrequent, is becoming more common as terrorist groups continue to experiment with ways to breach security measures and enhance the ruthless nature and lethality of the violence.

In Afghanistan, suicide attacks are a new phenomenon, says Christine Fair, a former political affairs officer with the U.N. Assistance Mission to Afghanistan (UNAMA) who coordinated the UNAMA study *Suicide Attacks in Afghanistan (2001-2007)*.

Before September 9, 2001, there had not been a known suicide attack in Afghanistan. On that day two al-Qaida operatives, posing as news media, blew up themselves and assassinated Ahmad Shah Masoud, leader of the anti-Taliban Northern Alliance.

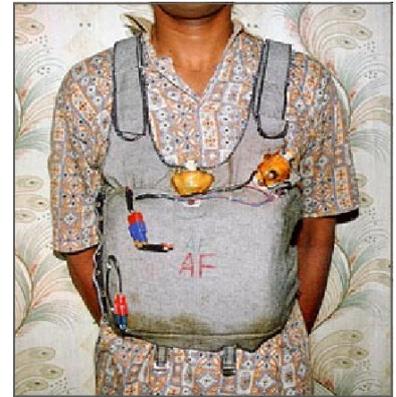
Taliban insurgents have conducted 103 suicide bombings in Afghanistan in the first eight months of this year, a 69 percent increase over the same period in 2006, according to the UNAMA report. In all of 2006, 123 attacks, which killed 305 people, were carried out, according to the report.

"The immediate victims of a suicide attack are those who are killed or wounded, their families, and their friends. However, the target of such attacks is also society as a whole," Koenigs says.

"Suicide attacks traumatize entire communities, undermine popular faith in institutions of the state, provoke responses that limit freedoms, and intimidate populations into a sense that hopes of peace rest only with the providers of violence," he said.

Fair said that the primary targets of terrorists in Afghanistan are police, security forces and coalition forces, not the civilian population. However, civilians make up the largest group of victims.

Fair also noted that Afghanistan lacks "the cult of martyrdom," which is found in other areas that have experienced suicide terrorism.



A jacket containing plastic explosives with two pull cords - one to arm the device, the other to detonate it. Such a device would be worn under the outer garments of the suicide bomber.

Afghans tend not to support suicide attackers, she said.

For additional information, see "Suicide Terrorism on the Rise Worldwide, Experts Say (<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfileenglish&y=2007&m=October&x=20071011104652dmslahrellek0.8995325>)" and "Profile of Suicide Terrorist Defies Common Stereotypes (<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfileenglish&y=2007&m=October&x=20071022124155dmslahrellek0.1434137>)."

(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)◆

Suicide Terrorism on the Rise Worldwide, Experts Say

Washington -- Suicide terrorism is on the rise and increasingly includes children as both victims and perpetrators, say terrorism experts.

"What suicide terrorist attacks are about is ... killing large numbers of people in a target audience in order to generate the kind of fear and chaos that can produce political change in various ways," Robert Pape, a political scientist at the University of Chicago and director of the Chicago Project on Suicide Terrorism, said in a recent interview with USINFO. Pape noted that suicide terrorism has been increasing steadily since the early 1980s.

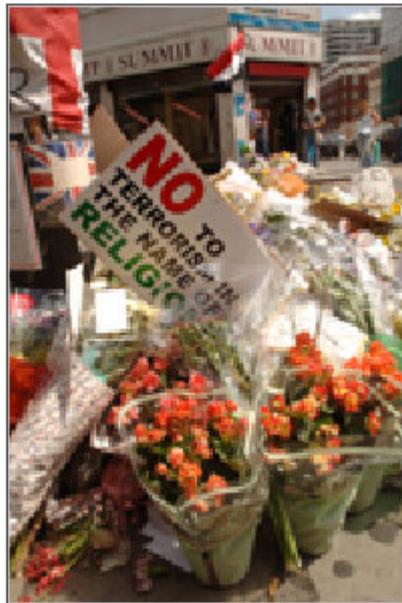
According to the U.S. National Counterterrorism Center, children were reported as victims more often in 2006, up by more than 80 percent as compared to 2005, with more than 1,800 children either killed or injured in terrorist attacks in 2006. Targeting children creates enormous suffering and loss to families and inflicts much deeper economic and social damage on societies because children's deaths destroy future generations, experts say.

Pape says from his research that teenagers from 15 to 18 years old make up about 20 percent of all suicide bombers. Participation by children younger than that age group is rare, but not unheard of, he said, because terrorist groups experiment constantly with different tactics to defeat strengthened security measures.

The use of women, who make up about 20 percent of attackers worldwide, and children in suicide attacks serves a central strategy to avoid early detection by security forces, Pape said. Terrorist groups tend to rely less on younger chil-

dren, too, because the terrorists intend that the attacker actually will conduct the attack, he said.

The great majority of suicide bombers are often middle-aged and young adults, married and unmarried, and some have children, Bruce Hoffman of Georgetown University wrote for the magazine *Atlantic*



A spontaneous memorial in London remembers those killed in the July 7, 2005, bombing of a subway train. (AP Images)

Monthly. In his article, "The Logic of Suicide Terrorism," Hoffman says that there is not a clear profile of what makes up suicide attackers today, which, in turn, makes detection doubly difficult for police and security forces.

ATTACKS NOT NECESSARILY RELATED TO RELIGION

Pape said that more than half of the attacks are unrelated to religion.

Until recently, Pape said, the Tamil Tigers (LTTE) in Sri Lanka had committed more suicide terrorist attacks than any other single group. The

LTTE is motivated largely by Marxism, he says, not religious doctrine. Since 1980, Pape said, nearly half of all attacks have not been associated with the religious fundamentalism often cited in Middle Eastern-based groups.

The use of suicide attacks has grown for several key reasons, according to experts, and the frequency of their success is the most critical factor. The use of suicide terrorist attacks first emerged in Lebanon in 1983 from the group Hezbollah, which initially perfected the technique.

Pape said his research indicates that most suicide terrorist attacks, about 95 percent since 1980, stem from the real or imagined perception of foreign occupation of a country or region. But, he added, that is only a general pattern. Whatever the cause, Pape said, "you're not seeing a decline in suicide terrorism."

"Suicide tactics have been adopted by a growing number of terrorist organizations around the world because the tactics are shocking, deadly, cost-effective, and very difficult to stop," says Hoffman, a professor of security studies at Georgetown University's Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service, writing recently for the *RAND Review*.

The *RAND Review* is a publication of the RAND Corporation, a non-profit organization that conducts policy-related research and analysis.

Hoffman, an international terrorism expert and formerly director of RAND's Washington office, says that suicide terror attacks are undertaken as part of a larger cam-

(Continued on page 20)

U.S., British Efforts To Stabilize Iraq-Turkey Border Intensify

By David McKeeby
USINFO Staff Writer

Washington --Stepped-up diplomatic efforts to reduce tensions along Iraq's northern border with Turkey after cross-border attacks by the terrorist group Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) were the focus of an October 22 meeting between Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and British Foreign Secretary David Miliband.

"We will intensify efforts with our Turkish and Iraqi allies to achieve our common goals to end PKK terrorism," according to a joint statement issued by the State Department after the meeting. "We call upon Iraqi and Kurdish regional government authorities to take immediate steps to halt PKK operations from Iraqi territory." (See full text (<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=texttransenglish&y=2007&m=October&x=20071023140621eaifas0.725033&t=livefeeds/wf-latest.html&distid=ucs>) of joint statement.)

The United States and the United Kingdom "are absolutely determined to ensure that there are real deeds that allow the Turkish government to say to their own people that the international community, and, critically, the Iraqi government, are taking this issue with the seriousness that it deserves," Miliband told reporters after the meeting. "And if the trilateral process involving the United States can also engage, that can only be a good thing in building the right sort of partnerships to take this forward."

The situation requires information sharing and a great deal of coordi-

nation, according to Rice. "But I'm quite certain that we can sit down and we can work this together if there is enough political will," she added.

The PKK has been engaged in a long-running conflict in Turkey's Kurdish-majority southwest along the Iraqi border. The conflict has claimed more than 37,000 lives since 1984. The PKK's most recent forays, including an October 21 ambush of a military convoy which killed 12 Turkish soldiers, threaten to destabilize the delicate security balance in northern Iraq and the wider region.

Within hours of the attack, Rice called Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Massoud Barzani, leader of northern Iraq's Kurdish region, to urge restraint. The same day, U.S. Ambassador to Iraq Ryan Crocker met with Iraqi President Jalal Talabani -- an Iraqi Kurd -- who called on the PKK to lay down its arms and leave Iraq. Defense Secretary Robert Gates also met with his Turkish counterpart on the sidelines of a security conference in Kiev, Ukraine. He pledged a continued U.S. commitment to helping Turkey

build the intelligence resources necessary to bring PKK militants to justice.

President Bush followed up on those actions on October 22 with a call to Turkish President Abdullah Gul and a videoconference with Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki to discuss ways that the two countries could work to halt the PKK's



terrorist threat, said White House spokesman Gordon Johndroe.

"The prime minister agreed with President Bush that Turkey should have no doubt about our mutual commitment to end all terrorist activity from Iraqi soil," Johndroe said.

(Continued on page 19)

Iran's Detention of Human Rights Defender Emadeddin Baghi

DEPARTMENT OF STATE Office of the Spokesman

For Immediate Release
October 17, 2007

STATEMENT BY TOM CASEY, DEP- UTY SPOKESMAN

Human Rights Defender Detained in Iran

The Iranian regime's arrest of Emad-
eddin Baghi, head of the Organiza-
tion for the Defense of Prisoners'

Rights, demonstrates its disregard
for Iranian citizens campaigning for
their basic rights. The regime ac-
cuses him of being a threat to na-
tional security for condemning its
ongoing mistreatment of prisoners.
Baghi has already served time in
Iran's prisons and been subject to
travel bans – all for drawing atten-
tion to the recent increase in execu-
tions in Iran, and for calling for hu-
mane treatment of prisoners. His
work to protect the rights of others
should be lauded not condemned.

We stand with those defending the
rights of the Iranian people and call
upon the Government of Iran to
treat its prisoners humanely and
release Baghi and other human
rights activists, including Mansour
Osanloo and Mohammed Salehi,
immediately.

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national Information Programs, U.S.
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Louisiana Elects First Indian-American . . .

(Continued from page 6)

Later, in high school, he gave up
Hinduism to become a Christian,
and was baptized as a Roman
Catholic while attending Brown Uni-
versity.

After studying as a Rhodes scholar
at Oxford University, Jindal turned
down admissions to the medical
and law schools of both Harvard
and Yale universities to serve as
secretary of the Louisiana Depart-
ment of Health and Hospitals. He
later was appointed to an assistant
secretary post at the U.S. Depart-
ment of Health and Human Ser-
vices. After an unsuccessful race
for governor in 2003, he was
elected in 2004 to the U.S. House
of Representatives from a district in
suburban New Orleans.

RACE AND RELIGION

In American politics, experience,
leadership and a candidate's vision
for the future are important factors
in appealing to voters. But some-
times race, religion and ethnicity
can affect voters' perceptions and,
ultimately, their votes. Such issues

surfaced in the governor's race, but
Jindal refused to be distracted from
his core message of building a bet-
ter future for Louisiana.

"People want to make everything
about race," he said during one de-
bate. "The only colors that matter
here are red, white and blue."

In late August, commercials that
attacked Jindal's Catholic religious
beliefs were shown in primarily
Protestant northern Louisiana. As
the days wore on, the ads were
denounced and discredited; they
might have garnered Jindal addi-
tional support because many voters
objected so strongly to the ads.

Jindal ran on a platform that
stressed accountability and reform,
a message that had special reso-
nance in a state with a colorful po-
litical history, one rife with politi-
cians whose illicit behavior made
them legendary.

"I have said throughout the cam-
paign that there are two entities
that have the most to fear from us
winning this election -- One is Cor-
ruption, and the other is his side-

kick Incompetence. ... I can prom-
ise you this -- when they rear their
heads, they will not be tolerated,
no excuses will be accepted."

The Louisiana governorship is one
of approximately 176,000 elected
offices that will be filled by voters
in 2007 in races termed "off-year
elections" because they are held in
years in which no members of the
U.S. Congress are elected. In 2007,
in addition to votes on many state
and local ballot issues, two other
states -- Kentucky and Mississippi --
will elect governors, four states will
vote for their state legislators, and
many major cities -- including Chi-
cago, Dallas, Philadelphia, Baltimore
and San Francisco -- will elect their
mayors.

For additional information on Ameri-
can politics, see '08 U.S. Elections
([http://usinfo.state.gov/politics/
elections/](http://usinfo.state.gov/politics/elections/)).

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Bush's Remarks on Sanctions in Burma

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary
October 19, 2007

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT ON SANCTIONS ON BURMA

THE PRESIDENT: Laura, thank you for joining; and Madam Secretary. In the last few weeks, the world has been inspired by the courage of the Burmese people. Ordinary men

Burma's rulers continue to defy the world's just demands to stop their vicious persecution. They continue to dismiss calls to begin peaceful dialogue aimed at national reconciliation. Most of all, they continue to reject the clear will of the Burmese people to live in freedom under leaders of their own choosing.

Last month, the United States tightened economic sanctions on the

In light of the ongoing atrocities by these men and their associates, the United States has today imposed additional sanctions.

First, the Treasury Department has designated 11 more leaders of the Burmese junta for sanctions under existing authorities.

Second, I've issued a new executive order that designates an additional 12 individuals and entities for sanctions. This executive order grants the Treasury Department expanded authority to designate for sanctions individuals responsible for human rights abuses as well as public corruption, and those who provide material and financial backing to these individuals or to the government of Burma.

Third, I have instructed our Commerce Department to tighten its export control regulations for Burma.

Burmese authorities claim they desire reconciliation. Well, they need to match those words with actions. A good way to start would be to provide the International Committee of the Red Cross and other humanitarian organizations access to political prisoners; to allow Aung San Suu Kyi and other detained leaders to communicate with one another; and to permit U.N. Special Envoy Gambari to enter their country immediately. And ultimately, reconciliation requires that Burmese authorities release all political prisoners -- and begin negotiations with the democratic opposition under the auspices of the United Nations.

We will continue to review our policies and consider additional meas-

(Continued on page 20)



Flanked by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Mrs. Laura Bush, President George W. Bush delivers a statement at the White House Friday, Oct. 19, 2007, regarding sanctions on Burma. Said the President, "The people of Burma are showing great courage in the face of immense repression. They are appealing for our help. We must not turn a deaf ear to their cries." White House photo by Chris Greenberg

and women have taken to the streets in peaceful marches to demand their freedom and call for democratic change. The world has also been horrified by the response of Burma's military junta. Monks have been beaten and killed. Thousands of pro-democracy protestors have been arrested. And Burma's dictator, Than Shwe, continues to hold captive the leader of Burma's largest democratic party -- Aung San Suu Kyi.

leaders of Burma's regime, and imposed an expanded visa ban on those responsible for the most egregious violations of human rights, as well as their family members. The Treasury Department designated 14 top leaders of the Burmese regime for sanctions -- including Than Shwe and his deputy, Vice Senior General Maung Aye. And the State Department added 260 names of Burmese officials and their family members to the visa ban list.

Islamic Development Bank Joins Broad Global Anti-poverty Effort

By Howard Cincotta
USINFO Special Correspondent

Washington -- An ambitious \$10 billion anti-poverty program launched by the 56-member Islamic Development Bank (IDB) will focus on the basic needs of some of the world's poorest people through job creation, education and prevention of diseases like malaria and AIDS, according to the bank's president, Ahmad Mohamed Ali.

Mohamed Ali, speaking at a press conference during the World Bank/IMF annual meeting in Washington on October 21, said that the IDB's initiative would address the "root causes of terrorism" by fighting poverty, illiteracy and unemployment, which can "reduce social tensions and foster better relations among nations."

Twenty-nine IDB member countries already have pledged money to the bank's Fund for Poverty Reduction, including pledges of \$1 billion from Saudi Arabia and \$300,000 from Kuwait.

The IDB has set four overall priorities: reducing poverty among some of the poorest people in the world; eliminating illiteracy; eradicating infectious diseases such as malaria, tuberculosis and AIDS; and increasing "human and productive capacities," particularly in the least-developed nations that are members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

Half of the IDB's members are from Africa, Mohamed Ali pointed out. He noted that the bank is in the fifth year of a \$2 billion African program, which included \$50 million for reduced prices for anti-malaria medicines.

"When you help any part of the village," he said, "you help the total village."

GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY

Mohamed Ali said the goals of the IDB's anti-poverty initiative closely parallel those set forth recently by the new president of the World Bank, Robert Zoellick, as well as the Millennium Development Goals of the United Nations.



Ahmad Mohamed Ali
President of the Islamic Development Bank
(IDB)

Zoellick, in a recent speech, cited six World Bank priorities: overcoming poverty in the poorest nations, especially Africa; meeting the needs of states "coming out of conflict"; developing specialized financial and development solutions for middle-income countries; addressing "transnational" issues such as climate change and infectious diseases; and supporting development in the Arab world.

For its part, the United States also has directed increasing resources toward anti-poverty and health initiatives directed at some of the world's poorest nations, including an increase in assistance to sub-Saharan Africa to \$5.6 billion in 2006. (See a fact sheet (<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2007/aug/90348.htm>) on the State Department Web site.)

During the last three years, the U.S. Millennium Challenge Corporation has committed nearly \$3.9 billion to 13 countries. President Bush also has proposed doubling the five-year, \$15 billion funding for the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief to \$30 billion for the next five years (2009-2013).

In a recent address, the director of U.S. foreign assistance, Henrietta H. Fore, labeled the current era of unprecedented activity and cooperation a "Global Development Commons," which she described as a "community of continuous and real-time exchange, collaboration, partnership and action between public and private donors, agencies, NGOs, host governments, and civil society – all operating as equals."

A transcript (<http://www.state.gov/f/releases/remarks2007/92949.htm>) of Fore's remarks is available on the State Department Web site.

Additional information (<http://www.isdb.org/irj/portal/anonymous>) about the Islamic Development Bank is available on the bank's Web site.

For more information about U.S. policy, see Global Development and Foreign Aid (http://usinfo.state.gov/ei/economic_issues/global_development.html) and Millennium Challenge Account (http://usinfo.state.gov/ei/economic_issues/mca.html).

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Policy Reforms Boost Women's Participation in Business

By Kathryn McConnell
USINFO Staff Writer

Washington -- Countries around the world increasingly are reforming their policies to make it easier to start a business, changes that are benefiting women significantly, the World Bank reports.

In its recently released Doing Business 2008 report, the World Bank says countries ranked highest on its "ease of doing business" scale "are associated with higher percentages of women among entrepreneurs and employees." The bank ranked 178 countries in such policy areas as paying taxes and entrepreneurs' ease in obtaining licenses, registering property and getting credit. It also ranked countries' investor protections, contract enforcement and cross-border trade laws.

"When reformers simplified business start-up, business registrations shot up. The increase in first-time business owners was 33 percent higher for women than men," according to the report.

The reforms are helping women move from the "informal economy," where they had little job security and few social benefits, into the formal economy where they can access credit and own property, Henrietta Fore, the acting director of U.S. foreign assistance and acting administrator of the U.S. Agency of International Development (USAID) told USINFO.

"Since women are disproportionately in the informal sector, they benefit disproportionately" from reforms, Fore said. "Women have enormous potential to bring prosperity to this world."

Additionally, countries that are encouraging women to start businesses "are starting to see the dividends in their [economic] growth rates," Fore said.

She said encouraging women in education and entrepreneurship is important. When Fore visits a country she looks to meet with women graduate students, women business owners and women thinking of starting a business, and such groups as chambers of commerce and professional associations that can help women make contacts who help them build a business, she added.

Fore said that, in particular, USAID is seeing more interest in Middle Eastern countries to "open up opportunities for women" in education.

Public-private partnerships, especially in education, are key to helping women enter the business world, Fore said. In a September speech in Chicago, she said she will chair a new U.S. committee to coordinate partnerships among bilateral and multilateral donors, non-governmental groups, foundations and the private sector.

Among the countries enacting reforms to make doing business easier, Egypt ranked at the top of the World Bank's list. The World Bank reports that Egypt established a new private credit bureau to make it

easier for women and men borrowers to get loans and cut the time it takes to export and import goods.

The other top 10 reformers, in order, are Croatia, Ghana, Macedonia, Georgia, Colombia, Saudi Arabia, Kenya, China and Bulgaria.

Croatia, for instance, made its business registration processes available online and Macedonia eliminated minimal capital requirements to start a business.

"The case of Georgia ... is terrific," Fore said. Georgia ranked 18th overall for the ease of doing business. It was 100th in the 2006 rankings.

Fore said that 80 percent of countries in Eastern Europe and Central Asia adopted at least one reform in the past year, while 52 percent of the countries in sub-Saharan Africa did the same.

Lesotho, for instance, passed a law in late 2006 allowing married women to own and transfer property and to engage in legal transactions without their husband's consent, the report says.

In the overall rankings, Singapore was first followed by New Zealand, the United States, China (Hong Kong), Denmark, the United Kingdom, Canada, Ireland, Australia and Iceland.

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Georgia's policy reforms are helping it integrate into the global economy. (USAID)

Businesswoman Creates Opportunities for Women in Conflict Zones

By Phillip Kurata
USINFO Staff Writer

Washington -- An American woman who was uprooted by conflict during her childhood is focusing her business acumen on marketing gifts made by women in war zones in the Middle East, Central America, Asia and Africa.

Born in Uganda to Indian parents, Amber Chand fled her birth country with her family in the 1970s to escape atrocities committed by the dictator Idi Amin, who died in 2003. She settled first in Great Britain, then in the United States.

"Barely 21 years old, I was suddenly left without the foundations of a secure home. We lost everything -- our assets, our beautiful home on the hill overlooking the city, and a sense of meaning and purpose. Father died within nine months of a broken heart," Chand said. "I was at a crossroads now and could either choose the path of bitterness, revenge and anger or the path of healing, forgiveness and love. Ultimately, I knew that it was my responsibility to find meaning within this tragic circumstance and [an] anchor for my life."

With personal knowledge of war's ravaging effects, particularly on women, she founded a company designed to alleviate the plight of women artisans affected by conflict. Chand works closely with a number of nongovernmental organizations, such as Women for Women International and CHF International, which have ties to the U.S. Agency for International Development and other U.S. agencies.

PRODUCTS CELEBRATE THE RESILIENCE AND POWER OF WOMEN

Her company, the Amber Chand Collection, offers gifts such as the Kabul "remember me" bracelet, made by Afghan war widows, the Darfur "basket of strength," made by women in refugee camps in Su-



"Dolls of compassion" are made by workers in Burma and Thailand. (Courtesy of the Amber Chand Collection)

dan's violence-torn Darfur region and the Jerusalem "candle of hope," produced jointly by Russian-Jewish women immigrants in Israel and Palestinian women on the West Bank. Other gifts made by female artisans are the Burmese "doll of compassion," the Cambodian "peace bell," the Ethiopian "scarf of dreams," the Mayan "harmony bracelet" and "harmony necklace," the Nepali "basket of kindness" and the Rwandan "scarf of peace."

"My vision for this company is to highlight and celebrate the resilience, the strength, the beauty and

the power of women who are the victims of war," Chand said.

"When a woman goes to a party and she is wearing a beautiful bracelet made by an Afghan war widow, guess what? The woman says, 'Oh yes, this was made in Afghanistan,' and suddenly the story becomes so compelling," she said.

The story behind the Kabul "remember me" bracelets is that 10 Afghan war widows, who are skilled stonecutters and jewelry makers, come to their workshop every day in their burqas and transform blocks of fluorite, a semi-precious stone mined in northern Afghanistan, into translucent beads, which they string into bracelets. To each bracelet, they attach a metal charm of Arabic calligraphy, which reads "remember me." The charms are made in Jordan and flown to Kabul. The bracelets are wrapped in embroidered bags produced by women in Karbala, Iraq, whose sewing skills are helping their families survive the conflict ravaging their country. As with all gifts in the Amber Chand Collection, a small Cambodian "peace bell," made from metal converted from land mines, is enclosed.

"When I came across this bell, I said to myself that this bell represents everything that I am committed to," Chand said.

The most popular item in the collection is the Jerusalem candle of hope, of which Chand has sold 6,000 since the 2004 holiday season. The candles have provided

(Continued on page 19)

Businesswoman Creates Opportunities for Women . . .

(Continued from page 18)

income for roughly 40 women artisans, evenly split on both sides of the Israeli-Palestinian divide. The Palestinian women embroider the small bags in which the candles are wrapped. The Israeli women make the candles. Before she launched the project, Chand made sure that both groups of women were willing to work with each other. Both responded affirmatively because it was in their economic interest to do so, Chand said.

"Therein lies the secret. When people are partners in trade and commerce, they are not going to be seeking conflict with each other," she said.

Chand said that she measures the success of her business according to three criteria: financial results, social impact and promotion of happiness. She explained that

everyone involved in the venture must make a profit and the business must improve the community where it exists.



The Rwandan "scarf of peace" celebrates the resilience and strength of its makers. (Courtesy of the Amber Chand Collection)

The Amber Chand Collection is in its early stages of development. The Macy's department store chain markets the Rwandan "basket of peace," but Chand finds most of her customers through her personal e-mail broadcasts, speeches she gives and home parties. Requests from galleries and fair trade retail stores are increasing, she said, and most of her customers are educated, globally conscious, well-traveled women with healthy incomes. "These are people who buy because of the message," she said.

More information (<http://www.amberchand.com/>) about the Amber Chand Collection can be found at the company Web site.

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U.S., British Efforts To Stabilize Iraq-Turkey . . .

(Continued from page 13)

"We want to see an outcome where you have the Turks and the Iraqis working together and we will do what we can to resolve the issue without a Turkish cross-border incursion," said State Department spokesman Sean McCormack.

Turkey and Iraq recently concluded an agreement on combating cross-border terrorism. A meeting in Istanbul among U.S., Iraqi, and Turkish officials in November on implementing the agreement provides an ideal opportunity for both sides to

discuss how best to move forward together against the PKK.

"It is the policy of the United States that Iraq should not be a place where the territory can be used as any kind of sanctuary for terrorist activity," Rice said.

See also the full text (<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=texttrans-english&y=2007&m=October&x=20071022135253eaifas0.8585626&t=livefeeds/wf-latest.html&distid=ucs>) of the

U.S. condemnation of the attacks and a transcript (<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=texttransenglish&y=2007&m=October&x=20071023121722eaifas0.2020685&t=livefeeds/wf-latest.html&distid=ucs>) of Rice's and Miliband's remarks.

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Bush's Remarks on Sanctions in . . .

(Continued from page 15)

ures if Burma's leaders do not end the brutal repression of their own people whose only offense is the desire to live in freedom. Business as usual is unacceptable. So I applaud the efforts of the European Union and nations like Australia that have announced targeted sanctions on the Burmese regime. I commend nations such as Japan that have curtailed their assistance to Burma in response to the atrocities. I appreciate nations such as Singapore and the Philippines and Indonesia, who have spoken out against the atrocities. I ask other countries to review their own laws and policies, especially Burma's closest neighbors -- China, India, and others in the region.

The people of Burma are showing great courage in the face of immense repression. They are appealing for our help. We must not turn a deaf ear to their cries. They do have many friends around the world -- including Laura. I am proud of Laura for all she has done to awaken the conscience of the world to the plight of the Burmese people. I believe no nation can forever suppress its own people. And we are confident that the day is coming when freedom's tide will reach the shores of Burma.

Thank you.

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Suicide Terrorism on the Rise Worldwide, . . .

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paign "to undermine confidence in government and leadership, to crush popular morale, and to spread fear and intimidation."

According to the National Counterterrorism Center, suicide bombings fell slightly in 2006 largely because of a decline in the use of car bombings, which are less reliable than a suicide attacker. However, the report also notes that suicide bombers operating without vehicles increased by 25 percent in 2006, "and the ability of these attackers to penetrate large concentrations of people and then detonate their explosives probably accounted for the increase in lethality of bombings in 2006."

Disturbingly, the terrorism report also notes that religious education and training, thought to be a contributing factor in an attacker's radicalization, plays a small role in the making of suicide attackers, experts say. Pape says religious education plays a small role in helping to encourage young men to become attackers.

Dr. Marc Sageman, a medical doctor and an independent researcher on terrorism and founder of Sageman Consulting near Washington, said his research on terrorists in several key regions indicates that 87 percent of terrorists in his study received secular educations, and religious education was not a significant factor in their radicalization.

"The vast majority of al-Qaida terrorists in the sample came from families with very moderate religious beliefs or a completely secular outlook. Indeed, 84 percent were radicalized in the West, rather than in their countries of origin," Sageman said in an August 2006 eJournal Rebuilding and Resilience Five Years After 9/11 (<http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/itps/0806/ijpe/ijpe0806.htm>).

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