



# Weekly Special Report



Produced by the Public Affairs Section

## INSIDE

## Ethiopian Mothers Join the Fight against HIV/AIDS

Addis Ababa (U.S. Embassy) - HIV transmission from mothers to their newborn infants accounted for approximately 253,000 new infections in Ethiopia in 2005. According to recent statistics, 27 percent of pregnant women in Ethiopia visited a health center during their pregnancy, and only about 6 percent of pregnant women delivered their children in a health facility.



U.S. Deputy Chief of Mission Janet M. Wilgus (R), Miss Universe Ethiopia Dina Fekadu and Cristina Ruden, Country Director of IntraHealth International.

IntraHealth International, a program partner for the United States' Agency for

International Development (USAID), in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Health organ-

ized "Mothers2Mothers" community support groups to create aware-

*(Continued on page 2)*

## The Study Center Launches Micro-scholarship Program in Partnership with U.S. Embassy

Addis Ababa (U.S. Embassy) -- The Study Center inaugurated a new English scholarship program on May 20 at Alem Cinema. The Study Center, an English Medium School and English language learning center located on the Ring Road near Bole, is working in partnership with the United States Embassy in Addis Ababa to carry out a program spon-



One of the Micro-scholarship Program beneficiaries presents business plan at the Study Center.

sored by the U.S. State Department to promote English language learning in Ethiopia.

Eighty deserving students in the 10th and 11th grades are currently complementing their studies at government high schools with approximately 5 hours per week of extra course work at The Study Center, concen-

*(Continued on page 3)*

### U.S. Programs in Ethiopia

Ambassador Huddleston visits the West Shoa Zone (P 2)

Gender Studies Students Visit IRC at Embassy Addis (P 3)

### African issues

Senior U.S. Diplomat Starts Four-Nation Africa Trip (P 4)

U.S.-African Trade Increased 115 Percent since AGOA's Enactment (P 5)

Rice Says International Force Urgently Needed To Stabilize Darfur (P 6)

U.S. and Nigeria Working in Partnership Against Corruption (P 7)

U.S. Wants To Help Emerging Democracies "Find Their Own Voices" (P 8)

U.S. Soldiers Renovate Clinic for Dikhil, Djibouti Villagers (P 9)

### Economic News

U.S. Economic Assistance to Developing World Nearly \$100 Billion (P 10)

U.S. Proposes Changes to Coffee Agreement To Help Small Farmers (P 11)

### International issues

U.S. Military Humanitarian Aid Provides Long-Term Benefits (P12)

United States Says U.N. Torture Report Ignored Crucial Data (P13)

Bush Says New Iraqi Government a "Decisive Break with the Past" (P 15)

### Democracy and Human Rights

Wikipedia Promotes Free Speech, Encourages "Global Conversation" (P 16)

Education Transforms Lives, Rice Says (P 17)

Online Filtering and Censorship at Issue on the Internet (P 18)

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## Ambassador Huddleston visits the West Shoa Zone

The U.S. Chargé d’Affaires, Ambassador Vicki J. Huddleston, visited the West Shoa zone of the Oromia Region from May 16-17 to meet with local officials, political party leaders and members of the business community. She also stopped to talk with the Lake Wonchi Boat Operators Cooperative, together with the local Tourism Bureau, to discuss potential for increased tourist infrastructure around the lake.



**Ambassador Vicki J. Huddleston with Ato Delesa Gudissa, Head, Culture and Tourism Bureau in West Shoa Zone (third left), and a member of the Boat Cooperative (R)**

## Ethiopian Mothers Join the Fight against HIV/AIDS. . .

*(Continued from page 1)*

ness of antenatal care and HIV prevention services available to pregnant women. The United States Government, through the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, paid tribute to the mothers and families living with HIV/AIDS who are involved with this program for their commitment to promoting the Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT) of HIV/AIDS throughout Ethiopia.

During a recognition ceremony on May 24 attended by hundreds of government representatives, public health providers and community organizations, U.S. Deputy Chief of Mission Janet M. Wilgus and Miss Ethiopia, Dina Fekadu, presented certificates to 105 mothers and 24 male partners, whose contributions have led to better health and greater awareness of HIV/AIDS prevention, care and treatment services in the communities where these mothers and partners live.

“The numbers of mothers and family members who have benefited from these activities is impressive,” said Deputy Chief of Mission Janet Wilgus at the event. “It is so important to focus on women and their families. Through this program, there has been a remarkable increase in access to HIV prevention, care and treatment services – through the advice and counsel of other mothers in their communities.”

The United States Government continues to support women, mothers and their infants living with HIV/AIDS through the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). As of March 2006, approximately 42,718 pregnant women were provided with HIV prevention services, and 11,139 women are currently on antiretroviral therapy to support



their long-term health.

Since March 2005, IntraHealth International, a U.S. non-governmental organization, has supported more than 14,809 mothers in 81 public health centers, with plans in place to reach 267 health centers in Ethiopia, as well as to work with private clinics to improve both service quality and accessibility. Funding for this program, which totals more than 2,600,000 USD (about 2,880,000 birr), is made possible by the support of the American people through the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. ♦

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## Gender Studies Students Visit Information Resource Center at Embassy Addis



**Graduate Students from the Faculty of Gender Studies at the Addis Ababa University being briefed on accessing electronic databases at the Embassy's Information Resource Center.**

A group of 50 graduate students from the brand-new Faculty of Gender Studies at Addis Ababa University paid a visit to the Information Resource Center (IRC) at Embassy Addis Ababa on May 17, 2006.

The students toured the facility, received a briefing on the products and services of the IRC including its print and electronic resources, and in particular centrally funded databases such as LexisNexis.

The briefing was arranged by the IRC Director in cooperation with the student's professor, Dr. Elaine Rocha, who organized the visit to support the students' research needs. The group also briefly met with the Information Officer who invited students to visit the IRC in the future.

The Information Resource Center staff provides information and research assistance using the latest print and electronic resources. Queries are taken by telephone, mail, e-mail, fax or in person by appointment.

Contact address is:

Wzo. Yerusalem Ashenafi, IRC Director  
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## The Study Center Launches Micro-scholarship Program . . .

*(Continued from page 1)*

training on English Language, Computing, Entrepreneurship and Life Skills. Called 'Stepping up to the Future,' one of the program's aims is to encourage students to interface with local business and industry. As part of their course, students connect with mentors in the local business community, and gain work experience through internships with local companies.

Half of the eighty scholarship recipients are female, with all ethnic and religious groups represented. The students were selected from

ten public high schools around Addis Ababa through a competitive process.

Dr Anthony Fisher, the U.S. Embassy Public Affairs Counselor, recently announced the plan to extend this program to Harar for the coming academic year.

During the inauguration ceremony, the students presented a Business Plan they have developed as part of their curriculum. They stated that they are learning about the world of business by pretending to form a small venture like the many

thousands around the city of Addis. They hope that an understanding of the world of work, coupled with strong academics and English skills will enable them to become business leaders of the future.

In his remarks at the launching ceremony, the General Manager of The Study Center, Ato Seif Tewfik, expressed the hope that if they become heads of leading-edge companies that employ 100, 200 or even 1,000 employees here in Ethiopia, these young people will someday make a significant impact on the country's economy. ♦

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## Senior U.S. Diplomat Starts Four-Nation Africa Trip

By Jim Fisher-Thompson  
Washington File Correspondent

Washington -- U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Don Yamamoto will attend a May 26-27 meeting in Kigali, Rwanda, designed to tackle pending issues in the volatile eastern Congo region of Africa.

Yamamoto's participation in the meeting of the Tripartite Peace Process is part of a four-nation trip to Africa by the diplomat.

Before departing May 22 for Kenya, his first stop on an official trip that also includes Rwanda, Ethiopia and Chad, Yamamoto told the Washington File that a key goal of the trip would be "to energize and move forward" the Tripartite Peace Process hammered out by three African Great Lakes nations in 2004 with the help of then-Secretary of State Colin Powell.

Originally, Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Uganda were the three nations in the talks that Burundi later joined. All four neighbors have been in turmoil and conflict for close to 10 years, fighting over the resources of eastern Congo while various rebel militias have made cross-border incursions.

The May 26-27 meeting in Kigali, Yamamoto said, will have several difficult items on its agenda including the pursuit of rebels in the eastern Congo, the extradition of warlords and militia leaders and "enhancing the information fusion cell" of the Tripartite Commission used to exchange critical intelligence about cross-border movements.

The DRC, which is set to have U.N.-sponsored elections in July, is "absolutely critical to the peace process in the Great Lakes," Yamamoto emphasized. "If Congo goes up in smoke" and collapses into political turmoil following the election, "stability in the whole region could again be jeopardized," he added.

In January, Yamamoto told the United Nations, "The United States commends in the highest terms the governments of and people of Burundi, DRC, Rwanda and Uganda for their faith, trust, dedication and commitment to work together in the Tripartite plus commission."

He added, "Each of these four countries is making a difference and preparing for a more secure and prosperous Great Lakes region."

### **KENYA, ETHIOPIA CHAD**

Yamamoto told the Washington File that in Nairobi, Kenya, he would meet with U.S. ambassadors from the East Africa region to discuss economic development and to energize overworked officers at the embassies who deal with conflict in areas like Sudan and northern Uganda.

Yamamoto said he would visit Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to continue the diplomacy Assistant Secretary

of State for African Affairs Jendayi Frazer said would be a hallmark of her tenure as head of the State Department's Africa Bureau. The border issue with Eritrea is of prime interest, he said, along with

consultations with the Ethiopian government.

In Chad, Yamamoto said he would be speaking with top officials about the path of democratization in the Sahel nation and meeting with members of the political opposition.

Yamamoto told the Washington File that conflict

resolution generally is on the upswing in Africa now. "Even with Darfur we are seeing some movement toward progress, with President Bush's recent strong commitment to expanding humanitarian assistance and the recent signing of a peace accord in Abuja [Nigeria] between the government of Sudan and a main rebel group." (See related article [<http://usinfo.state.gov/af/Archive/2006/May/06-121988.html>].)

For more information on U.S. policies in the region, see Africa [<http://usinfo.state.gov/af>].

*(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)* ♦



**Donald Yamamoto, U.S.  
Deputy Assistant Secretary  
of State for African Affairs**

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## U.S.-African Trade Increased 115 Percent since AGOA's Enactment

Washington -- Two-way trade between the United States and sub-Saharan Africa increased 115 percent since the launch in 2000 of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), according to a report submitted to the United States Congress May 18.

The annual report, called the 2006 Comprehensive Report on U.S. Trade and Investment Policy Toward Sub-Saharan Africa and Implementation of the African Growth and Opportunity Act, describes the wide array of U.S. programs that are assisting African countries to bolster economic growth and development through trade. It provides an overview of the U.S. trade and investment relationship with sub-Saharan African countries, describes trade-capacity building and other technical assistance programs undertaken in support of AGOA objectives, and summarizes developments in sub-Saharan African countries related to AGOA's eligibility criteria.

"AGOA helps Africans use the power of trade to grow their economies and reduce poverty," U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) Rob Portman said in a statement issued with the report. "It also supports the efforts of those African countries undertaking difficult economic and political reforms. As these countries open their economies and increase their capacity to trade, opportunities are also arising for American exports to Africa."

Under AGOA, eligible countries receive duty-free access to the U.S. market for most of their products, a measure that offers tangible incentives for African countries to continue efforts to open their economies and build free markets.

The original act has been amended twice.

"The United States," Portman added, "recognizes how aid for trade helps developing countries participate more fully in the global trading system. That's why we committed \$199 million to trade capacity building activities in sub-Saharan Africa last year."

In Washington June 6 and June 7, more than 35 African trade and finance ministers, as well as leaders from the private sector and civil society, are expected to attend the fifth AGOA Forum, which will focus on helping African nations develop real growth in gross domestic product through trade expansion into U.S. markets. According to a May 18 USTR press release, highlights of the 2006 report include:

Thirty-seven of the 48 sub-Saharan African countries are eligible for benefits under AGOA, which provides them duty-free access to the U.S. market for virtually all products.

As of April 2006, 25 sub-Saharan African countries are eligible to receive AGOA's apparel benefits and 14 of them also qualify for AGOA's provisions for handloomed and handmade articles.

Since its inception in 2000, AGOA has helped increase U.S. two-way trade with sub-Saharan Africa by 115 percent and U.S. total exports to sub-Saharan Africa rose 22 percent in 2005 from 2004, to \$10.3 billion, while U.S. total imports from sub-Saharan Africa increased in the same period by 40 percent to \$50.3 billion.

U.S. imports from sub-Saharan African countries under AGOA totaled \$38.1 billion in 2005, up 44 percent over 2004 - largely due to oil; several non-oil sectors experienced increases, including footwear, toys, sportswear, fruits, nuts and cut flowers.

The United States was a leading provider of foreign direct investment to Africa, with the U.S. direct investment position rising 23.4 percent at the end of 2004 from 2003, to \$13.5 billion.

In April 2006, the United States and Southern African Customs Union agreed to establish a framework that would form the basis for pursuing a free-trade agreement, develop a joint work program to address a broad range of FTA and other related issues, and seek to conclude concrete trade- and investment-enhancing agreements.

At the fourth annual meeting of the U.S.-Sub-Saharan Africa Trade and Economic Cooperation Forum, held in Senegal in July 2005, President Bush announced a new Presidential Initiative -- the African Global Competitiveness Initiative -- providing \$200 million in funding over five years to support expanded African trade and improved African export competitiveness.

The full text [[www.ustr.gov/assets/Document\\_Library/Reports\\_Publications/2006/asset\\_upload\\_file236\\_9455.pdf](http://www.ustr.gov/assets/Document_Library/Reports_Publications/2006/asset_upload_file236_9455.pdf)] (PDF, 151 pages) of the report is available on the USTR Web site.

For additional information, see African Growth and Opportunity Act [[http://usinfo.state.gov/af/africa/trade\\_economic\\_development/agoa.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/af/africa/trade_economic_development/agoa.html)] and Africa [<http://usinfo.state.gov/af/>]. ♦

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## Rice Says International Force Urgently Needed To Stabilize Darfur

By Jacquelyn S. Porth  
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice says it is time to deploy a United Nations peacekeeping force to Darfur to help stabilize conditions there.

Although the United States has worked hard to help broker the comprehensive peace agreement for Darfur, Rice said more help is needed from the international community and urged countries like China and Russia to help focus the world's attention on the ongoing conflict in Sudan. (See related article [<http://usinfo.state.gov/af/Archive/2006/May/18-933765.html>].)

Rice, in May 21 comments to newspaper reporters in Boston, said she has argued for the rapid deployment of a U.N. peacekeeping force strong enough to offer the people of Darfur protection from the terror they have been experiencing. (See related article [<http://usinfo.state.gov/af/Archive/2006/May/16-328566.html>].)

The United States has asked the North Atlantic Treaty Organization formally to provide logistical support for a U.N. peacekeeping force.

Too many people have died, Rice told reporters, adding, "It's really time to get a peacekeeping force in that can help."

For more information on U.S. policies, see Darfur Humanitarian Emergency [<http://usinfo.state.gov/af/africa/darfur.html>].

### IRAQ'S NEW GOVERNMENT

Rice also discussed the installation of the new government in Iraq, saying the country finally has a permanent government that does not have to be distracted by organizing elections or writing a constitution.

The new Iraqi government comprises a considerable number of Sunnis, she said, which is good because the Sunnis have tended to be disaffected in the past and did not participate much in the January elections. Greater Sunni involvement may provide the opportunity "for those who wish to leave the course of violence and the insurgency" to turn instead to politics as a means for promoting change, she said.

Over time, as the Iraqi people "see their interests as more associated with the political process and less . . . with the rejectionist philosophy," the secretary said, "I think you're going to see the Iraqis stabilize the situation." But it will not occur overnight, she warned.

For more information on U.S. policies, see Iraq Update [[http://usinfo.state.gov/mena/middle\\_east\\_north\\_africa/iraq.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/mena/middle_east_north_africa/iraq.html)].

### IRAN

On Iran, Rice said Iranian officials "have engaged in behavior that has made the entire international community suspicious of what it is they're up to." That is why the International Atomic Energy Agency is asking pertinent questions of Tehran, she said, and why IAEA director Mohamed ElBaradei "continues to report that he's not getting satisfactory answers from the Iranians."

The United States is not alone in its concern that the Iranians "may be building a nuclear weapon under cover of civilian nuclear power," Rice said. So far, she added, the Iranians have done little to bolster the international community's confidence that their country is pursuing only a civil nuclear program.

For more information on U.S. policies, see Arms Control and Non-Proliferation [[http://usinfo.state.gov/is/international\\_security/arms\\_control.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/is/international_security/arms_control.html)].

### TRADE WITH CUBA

Rice was also asked about the possibility of selling Vermont-produced agricultural products to Cuba. She noted that Cuba is not part of an open trade system because "every economic activity benefits Fidel Castro." The U.S. trade embargo exists, she said, "to prevent Fidel Castro's dictatorial regime from using commerce and trade to fund and strengthen his regime so that he keeps his hold on the Cuban population."

Rice reminded her questioner that Cuba is the only remaining non-democratic state in the Western Hemisphere and almost every economic activity in Cuba benefits the current regime in Havana.

For more information on U.S. policies, see Cuba [<http://usinfo.state.gov/wh/americas/cuba.html>].

*(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)* ♦

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## United States, Nigeria Working in Partnership Against Corruption

By Charles W. Corey  
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington --The United States is working closely with Nigeria in a "true international partnership" to help it fight corruption, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Linda Thomas-Greenfield told the U.S. Congress May 18.

Thomas-Greenfield, who was called to report on U.S. government programs to help Nigeria rid itself of corruption, told the House Subcommittee on Africa, Global Human Rights and International Operations that combating corruption and improving transparency in Nigeria are two cornerstones of U.S. policy.

The U.S. official told the lawmakers the importance of combating corruption and promoting transparency on all levels is regularly "raised at the highest levels" in government meetings both in Abuja and Washington.

She praised Nigeria's President Olusegun Obasanjo and Finance Minister Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala for having "done much at the national level" to improve federal financial management but added "more clearly needs to be done" especially at the state government level.

The United States, she said, "strongly supports greater transparency in the budget process to lock-in economic reform." She went on to praise a "brave" decision by the finance minister to make public for the first time national and state budgets, so everyone can see and track public expenditures.

Thomas-Greenfield said the United States currently is assisting Nigeria in its anti-corruption efforts on a number of fronts: through the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), the U.S. Nigeria Trade Investment Framework Agreement, and support for the African Union Peer Review Process and the Group of Eight (G8).

At their June 2003 summit in Evian, France, leaders of the G8 nations -- Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, the United States and Russia -- endorsed a comprehensive anti-corruption and transparency action plan that included a commitment to help developing countries build their capacity to strengthen domestic institutions and enhance transparency and accountability.

"President Bush expanded on these commitments at the [G8] Sea Island Summit [June 2004] by joining Nigerian President Obasanjo in launching an anti-corruption and transparency compact to support country efforts to improve transparency in government budget processes, procurement and the awarding of concessions," Thomas-Greenfield told the lawmakers. (See related article [<http://usinfo.state.gov/ei/Archive/2004/Jun/10-83709.html>].)

On the political front, she said, "the even-handed and transparent prosecution of corruption in politics can build Nigeria's confidence

in the accountability of their elected officials and strengthen Nigeria's most recent transition to democracy.

"Good governance," she added, "will strengthen the transparent and effective use of public and donor resources and encourage increased investment and growth in Nigeria."

### A CALL FOR FISCAL TRANSPARENCY

With regard to business, Thomas-Greenfield said that regrettably, "corruption affects many aspects of the business climate" there. "By improving economic governance," she said, adding, "Nigeria can set itself on the path towards attracting new investment and achieving sustainable economic growth."

The speedy ratification of pending Nigerian legislation on the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, public procurement and fiscal transparency are key first steps that will diminish the potential for graft and bribery and improve Nigeria's business climate, according to Thomas-Greenfield.

She identified the Nigerian government's struggle against corruption as a "crucial element" in U.S. efforts to promote sustainable development in the Niger River delta region, which produces a sizeable proportion of Nigeria's GDP (gross domestic product) and 11 percent of U.S. petroleum imports.

Unfortunately, in its current state, she said, the region is "deeply impoverished and subject to destabilizing violence."

*(Continued on page 20)*



Linda Thomas-Greenfield

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## U.S. Wants To Help Emerging Democracies "Find Their Own Voices"

Washington -- The foreign policy of the United States toward emerging democracies is to help those countries "find their own voices" and "make their own way" towards freedom, Deputy Secretary of State Robert Zoellick said May 21.

Zoellick spoke to reporters at a press roundtable in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, where he participated in the World Economic Forum for the Middle East. (See related article [<http://usinfo.state.gov/mena/Archive/2006/May/21-384802.html>].)

The United States created the Forum for the Future program, he said, to further President Bush's goal of encouraging freedom and democracy abroad, as articulated in his second inaugural address in 2005.

"Our goal is to help others find their own voices, to attain their own freedom and to make their own way, and we have various tools by which we can do that," Zoellick said.

For example, through the Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI), the Bush administration is providing about \$500 million to regional organizations over the next five years to support democracy and legal development, plus another \$100 million every three years.

Zoellick also mentioned the administration's Millennium Challenge

Account, which channels aid to countries that adopt economic and political reform, and trade initiatives designed to empower individuals.

"[T]here's the trade side which is everything from the [Qualifying Industrial Zones] ... that have been really taking off in the Egyptian context to the Free Trade Agree-



**Deputy Secretary of State Robert Zoellick at a press roundtable in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt. (AFP/Khaled Desouki)**

ments to [Trade and Investment Framework Agreement] to getting countries in the [World Trade Organization], which Saudi Arabia just did and Algeria on its work to do so," he said.

The deputy secretary expressed his view that the Middle East is now "in an era where there are some fundamental changes taking place," due to stress on its political systems, economic globalization, economic modernization and heightened security concerns.

Economically, "this is a region where at least in recent years, other than energy, it really wasn't well integrated into the world market system," he said, but pointed to recent strategizing and modernization undertaken by Gulf states and North African countries, as well as others in the Middle East.

In politics, Zoellick said it is important for countries to allow legitimate opposition, saying of opposition groups that "if you block their ability to compete in elections, well, they're going to turn to other forms of opposition. ... So it's all the more reason in our view why you should try to open up a political system."

### POLITICAL REFORM IN EGYPT

Zoellick said the United States supports President Hosni Mubarak's political reform plans for Egypt, and is "trying to urge the Egyptian government to follow through on it."

Specifically the plans involve "the new judiciary law; repealing the Emergency Law and substituting a counterterrorism provision in its place; expanding press freedom through dealing with some of the detention provisions; changing some of the criminal law structure," he said.

Zoellick repeated the Bush administration's condemnation of the detention and treatment of opposition leader Ayman Nour.

"I think you are now in a phase where you've got some resistance by the vested order to try and maintain the status quo," he said, and he criticized the reaction of security forces against the political opposition, saying that these are "not only wrong actions, but mistakes," and "conflict with the government's own desires and interests and where they want Egypt to go."

However, he said opposition groups like Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood

*(Continued on page 20)*

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## U.S. Soldiers Renovate Clinic for Dikhil, Djibouti Villagers

The following article appeared in a U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) newsletter issued May 19. There are no publication restrictions.

(begin byliner)

Djiboutian Town Dedicates Renovated Clinic

By U.S. Army Capt. Bob Everdeen  
Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa

DIKHIL, Djibouti — Cooperation between the government of Djibouti and the Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa has resulted in a refurbished facility here that will help improve health care opportunities for the local community.

During a dedication ceremony May 4 for the Mouloud Clinic, representatives from Djibouti and the joint task force spoke about what the clinic represents.

"This clinic is more than mortar and paint; it represents the relationship between [Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa] and Djibouti," said U.S. Army Col. William Porter. "(We) are partners for peace, prosperity, security and a better way of life."

Speaking to a crowd of families, community leaders and dignitaries, Porter relayed a vision for the future.

"Quality medical care equals longer life for you and your children," he

cost approximately \$95,000, which included demolishing a wall and fence and building a new one that surrounds the clinic.

"Taking care of (this clinic) and preserving it is a big responsibility," Porter said. "We honor the

community, doctors, nurses and staff with this task."

The reception provided by the community for the men and women of the joint task force was first-class, Porter said. "Thank you for allowing us to help and work with you on this noble task."

(end byliner)

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



**(From left to right) Army Col. William Porter, Combined Joint Task Force Horn of Africa; The Honorable Marguerita Ragsdale, U.S. Ambassador to Djibouti; Mr. Abdullah Abdillahi Miguil, Djibouti Minister of Health; and Ms. Janet Schulman... Courtesy Photo.**

said. "Healthy children and citizens are vital to the future prosperity of your community."

Working together, the joint task force and local contractors and laborers constructed a maternity ward, waiting rooms and a storage facility at the Mouloud Clinic. They also renovated the existing clinic, repairing windows, doors, interior spaces and sidewalks. The project

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## U.S. Economic Assistance to Developing World Nearly \$100 Billion

By Tim Receveur  
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington – Total economic assistance from Americans to the developing world is estimated to have been \$99 billion in 2004, according to the Index of Global Philanthropy, a new annual report issued by the Hudson Institute's Center for Global Prosperity.

"We hope to help dispel this notion that America is stingy by measuring the large amount of private giving that flows from Americans to the developing world," said Carol Adelman, director of the Hudson Institute's Center for Global Prosperity in Washington.

During a global webchat on May 18, Adelman discussed the most effective means of U.S. economic assistance -- a combination of private philanthropy and public and private partnerships -- as opposed to government foreign aid.

The Index of Global Philanthropy is the first comprehensive guide to the sources and magnitude of American charity abroad, according to the Hudson Institute. The first Index has focused on philanthropy in the United States, but future reports will expand in scope to include international giving.

From 2000 to 2004, U.S. official development assistance doubled from \$9.9 billion to \$19.7 billion, but even more astonishing was the rise in American private contributions to global assistance organizations. The report tallied more than \$71 billion in international dona-

tions in 2004 by U.S. private charities, religious organizations, universities, corporations, and foundations. (See related article [<http://usinfo.state.gov/ei/Archive/2006/Apr/11-160471.html>].)

"This aid is much larger than our government aid because Americans give abroad the way they do at home -- through private institutions. We think that this type of aid can bypass government bureaucracies and go directly to the people who need it," said Adelman.

She also contended that private-sector trade and investment are fueling economic growth in the developing world more than financial assistance is.

"All members of the development community need to shed the 'donor' mentality and become true partners with the people of the developing world," said Adelman in the preface to the report. "Only if the poor are enabled to reduce their own suffering, can their lives be improved for good."

In her closing remarks to the webchat participants, Adelman said the "most important way to increase per capita incomes and prosperity for people in developing countries is for their governments to assure private property, rule of law, a reliable court system, intellectual property, transparency and good government."

A former presidential appointee to the U.S. Agency for International

Development in charge of foreign aid programs to Asia, the Middle East and Central and Eastern Europe, Adelman specializes in international development, foreign aid, trade and global health issues.

More information on Carol Adelman [[www.hudson.org/learn/index.cfm?fuseaction=staff\\_bio&eid=AdelCaro](http://www.hudson.org/learn/index.cfm?fuseaction=staff_bio&eid=AdelCaro)] and the Index of Global Philanthropy [<http://gpr.hudson.org/files/publications/GlobalPhilanthropy.pdf>] (PDF, 83 pages) is available on the Hudson Institute's Web site [[www.hudson.org](http://www.hudson.org)].

The transcript [<http://usinfo.state.gov/usinfo/Archive/2006/May/18-897180.html>] of the chat is available on USINFO's Webchat Station [<http://usinfo.state.gov/usinfo/Products/Webchats.html>].

[[http://usinfo.state.gov/usinfo/USINFO/Products/Webchats/adelman\\_may\\_18\\_2006.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/usinfo/USINFO/Products/Webchats/adelman_may_18_2006.html)]

The U.S. Department of State International Information Programs has also launched a Web site called Partnership for a Better Life [<http://usinfo.state.gov/partnerships/index.html>] showing the benefits of U.S. assistance around the world.

*(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)* ♦

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## U.S. Proposes Changes to Coffee Agreement To Help Small Farmers

By Bruce Odessey  
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- A year after rejoining the International Coffee Organization (ICO), the United States has proposed reforms to help small producers, the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) says.

A May 22 USTR press release says the reforms would assist small coffee farmers cope with unpredictable market conditions.

The United States submitted its proposal ahead of the May 22-25 meeting of the ICO Executive Board in London. An intergovernmental organization of coffee-exporting and importing countries, the ICO is considering changes to its expiring charter, the International Coffee Agreement.

That 2001 charter marked a sharp departure from ICO's long-standing practice of managing markets and trade to bolster coffee prices. The United States, which helped create the ICO in 1962 but left it in 1993, rejoined the organization in 2005.

"We have proposed structural and functional reforms that will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the ICO," U.S. Trade Representative Rob Portman said. "The expiration of the current agreement in 2007 presents an opportunity for the members to take action in order to reform the organization so that it can make a real difference."

The United States wants to give the ICO a role in helping small producers survive changing market conditions through improved access to financial credit and to information about risk management.



The proposal would promote ICO capacity-building projects to provide small farmers more access to value-added markets.

It also would make changes to ICO structure and operations, including ways to encourage collaboration between importing and exporting members. And it would expand the organization's objectives to include promoting environmental sustainability.

The U.S. proposal [www.ustr.gov/assets/Trade\_Sectors/Environment/

asset\_upload\_file590\_9459.pdf] (PDF, 4 pages) and a related press release [www.ustr.gov/Document\_Library/Press\_Releases/2006/May/US\_Proposes\_Reforms\_for\_the\_Int

ernational\_Coffee\_Organization.html] can be accessed at the USTR Web site.

*(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)* ♦

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## U.S. Military Humanitarian Aid Provides Long-Term Benefits

By Jacquelyn S. Porth  
Washington File Staff Writer

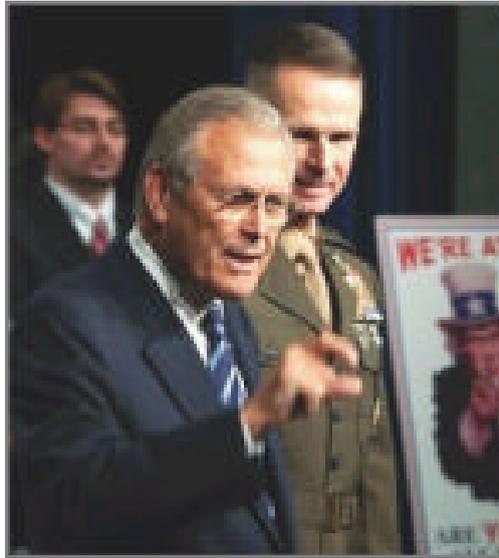
Washington -- Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld says U.S. military forces are helping people every day in all parts of the world in unconventional ways: building hospitals, digging water wells and administering medical aid to those in need.

Many American soldiers, who once thought they would see combat, are not using their weapons, Rumsfeld said, but are building new structures in places like Djibouti and delivering urgent medical care where there is none. Rumsfeld told Defense Department employees May 19 that tremendous advantages accrue from U.S. humanitarian assistance that the military extends not only in Africa and the Middle East, but also in Asia and the Pacific.

Even though the primary focus of U.S. military forces has to be on preparation and readiness for conventional warfare, Rumsfeld said there is no reason why that same force "ought not to be used from time to time" for other missions such as hurricane relief in the Western Hemisphere or the provision of emergency supplies, such as food or blankets, to areas of the world that suffer a natural disaster.

Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman General Peter Pace, appearing with the secretary, said the best qualities of the United States are demonstrated when U.S. military forces save lives and property as they did in 2005 by providing tsunami relief to Indonesia and earthquake aid to Pakistan.

Offering much-needed humanitarian assistance allows the military



**Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, left, and Joint Chiefs Chairman Gen. Peter Pace appear at a Pentagon Town Hall meeting Friday, May 19, 2006. (AP Photo/Dennis Cook)**

to demonstrate its passion, concern and "willingness to reach out and help others," Pace said, adding, "That's a great thing for our armed forces to do."

Carrying out humanitarian assistance, whether rebuilding Afghanistan or providing medical supplies to Honduras, Pace said, promotes understanding and goodwill. "It is well worth the investment of time and energy to carry out these good works," he added. (See related article [<http://usinfo.state.gov/eap/Archive/2006/May/12-836426.html>].)

Pace and Rumsfeld made their comments during a Defense Department Town Hall meeting at the Pentagon. They periodically meet with department employees to lis-

ten to their concerns and answer questions about current topics.

### PATROLLING BORDERS

One questioner asked about the role U.S. Army National Guard and Reserve forces would play in patrolling the border between the United States and Mexico. In reply, Rumsfeld said there is much misinformation circulating about the plan to use these forces temporarily to back up the existing Border Patrol.

He said 6,000 members of the Guard and Reserves would be deployed in 2006, and only 3,000 in 2007, to do missions they normally would practice as part of their annual training. The secretary said they might be assigned to work on construction projects or to guide unmanned aerial vehicles, for example, but "they're not going to be out with a gun standing on the border shooting at people who are trying to come across the border."

Rumsfeld said these forces also might help set up fencing along the border. "We may be doing some fencing in the Yuma Range or the Barry Goldwater Range," he said, "where a number of people trying to get into our country have died because of difficulties they've had getting in." The two ranges, located in southwest Arizona and southeastern California, are high-hazard training and weapons testing areas for the U.S. Air Force and Marine Corps.

For more information about U.S. humanitarian aid, see Foreign Policy Agenda [<http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/itps/1104/ijpe/ijpe1104.htm>]. ♦

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## United States Says U.N. Torture Report Ignored Crucial Data

Washington – The United States says a U.N. anti-torture report apparently ignored hundreds of pages of documents submitted by U.S. officials, made numerous errors and overstepped its authority by recommending the closure of the Guantanamo Bay detention facility.

“We are disappointed, despite our extensive work to provide materials to them, that they did not take advantage of that and that they ignored a number of the materials that we gave to them,” John Bellinger, legal adviser to the State Department, told reporters May 19.

Bellinger led a team of more than two-dozen senior U.S. officials to Geneva, Switzerland, May 5-8, to present oral and written reports to the U.N. Committee Against Torture. The exhaustive U.S. presentation included more than 200 pages of written answers to questions that centered on the conduct of U.S. detention operations in military operations around the world. (See related article [<http://usinfo.state.gov/eur/Archive/2006/May/05-730029.html>].)

As a party to the U.N. Convention Against Torture, the United States is required to present a report to the U.N. Committee every four years describing its compliance with the convention, and the written report was filed on schedule a year ago, with a follow-up oral presentation earlier in May in Geneva.

The U.N. committee formally released its findings May 19. In the report, the committee “welcomed” the U.S. statement “that all officials, from all government agencies, including its contractors,

were prohibited from engaging in cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.” (See related article [<http://usinfo.state.gov/eur/Archive/2006/May/09-954728.html>].)



**John Bellinger, legal adviser to the State Department**

However, the committee also said it was “concerned by allegations” that the United States “had established secret detention facilities.” The committee also recommended that the United States “cease to detain any person at Guantanamo Bay” and that the United States close the detention facility in Cuba while ensuring that no detainees are released to a country where they would be tortured. (See related article [<http://usinfo.state.gov/eur/Archive/2006/May/08-445580.html>].)

The U.N. committee appeared to have ignored or overlooked much of the written material he submitted, Bellinger told reporters. He also said the committee overstepped its mandate by recommending the closure of Guantanamo.

Bellinger said it was “not a particularly auspicious time for the United States to have to be filing a periodic report before the Convention Against Torture, in the aftermath of Abu Ghraib,” the prison where U.S. troops illegally abused prisoners in 2003 and 2004. (See related article [<http://usinfo.state.gov/eur/Archive/2006/Mar/31-120171.html>].)

“But we take our obligations seriously, and we did not shy away from going to Geneva,” Bellinger said. In fact, the United States filed the most comprehensive report ever given to the U.N. committee by any government.

“We filed extensive material. We had a good dialogue with the committee, answered their questions as fully as we could,” Bellinger said. “And I think we got a good deal of credit from them at the time for engaging in ... extensive and candid dialogue with them.”

The U.N. report does commend the United States for its “exhaustive written responses” and candid dialogue, Bellinger said. The U.N. report, in fact, acknowledges that after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the United States “is in a complex legal and political environment,” Bellinger said.

“On the downside of the ledger, we are disappointed that despite the fact that the committee acknowledges the extensive materials that we gave to them, that they don't seem to have relied on information that we gave to them in preparing their report,” he said.

*(Continued on page 14)*

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## United States Says U.N. Torture Report Ignored Crucial Data . . .

*(Continued from page 13)*

"In many ways, it appears that the report was written without the benefit of the materials, the information that we gave them, and, in fact, they seem to have ignored a good deal of the information that we did give to them," Bellinger said.

This resulted in "numerous errors of fact, just simply things that they've got wrong about what the U.S. law or practice is," he said.

"The committee also seems to have stretched in a number of areas to address issues that are well outside its mandate and outside the scope of the Convention Against Torture," Bellinger said. "We know these issues are out there. These are issues that you've all heard before. But we did not think that it's in the scope of this particular committee to go try to address every issue relating to detainees or Guantanamo and try to somehow squeeze it into the mandate of the Convention Against Torture."

Still, Bellinger emphasized that the United States intends to continue complying with the Convention Against Torture.

"They've asked us to get back in a year to them with answers on some questions, and I'm sure that we will be getting back to them in a year," Bellinger said. "We do take our obligations seriously un-

der the Convention Against Torture. We think that we are in compliance with our obligations."

Bellinger said he wanted to acknowledge "that there were very serious incidents of abuse. We've all seen Abu Ghraib. There have been other -- numerous other allegations. There have been other incidents." But, he stressed, these cases have been investigated, and people have been held accountable for wrongdoing.

"We are endeavoring hard to address all of these issues of abuse," he said. "The Defense Department, our intelligence agencies have adopted new procedures, new training. We have the McCain amendment. So we have new laws, new procedures, more training in place, and people are being held accountable for the abuses that did happen in the past."

Responding to a reporter's question, Bellinger said the United States has no intention of withdrawing from the U.N. anti-torture treaty.

"We certainly would not consider pulling out of the Convention Against Torture," he said. However, the report "does raise questions about -- When we show up before the committee, prepare an enormous amount of material for them, and they ignore it -- whether that has, in fact, been a productive use of our time."

The materials [<http://geneva.usmission.gov>] the United States presented to the U.N. Committee Against Torture are available on the Web site of the U. S. Diplomatic Mission to the United Nations in Geneva.

For more information, see Detainee Issues [[http://usinfo.state.gov/dhr/human\\_rights/detainees.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/dhr/human_rights/detainees.html)].

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## Bush Says New Iraqi Government a "Decisive Break with the Past"

Washington -- President Bush praised the formation of Iraq's new government and said that as long as the Iraqi people remain united, there is "no limit to the potential of their country."

Speaking in Chicago May 22, Bush said Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's formation of Iraq's first permanent democratically elected government "marks a victory for the cause of freedom in the Middle East."

The new government "has strong leaders that will represent all of the Iraqi people," and are committed to serving everyone in Iraq, regardless of religious or ethnic identification, the president said.

By representing all Iraqi communities, the new government makes a "decisive break with the past," and will provide a better future for the Iraqi people.

"Iraqis are determined to chart their own future and now they have the leadership to do it," Bush said.

The formation of the government also opens a "new chapter" in U.S.-Iraqi relations, Bush said. "The new Iraqi government does not change America's objectives or our commitment, but it will change how we achieve those objectives and how we honor our commitment."

The president acknowledged "setbacks and missteps," including the abuse of Iraqi prisoners by U.S. military personnel at Abu Ghraib. These "were felt immediately and have been difficult to overcome," he said, but "we have now reached a turning point in the

struggle between freedom and terror."

The terrorists in Iraq can "kill the innocent but they can't stop the advance of freedom," and "now the day they feared has arrive," with the formation of Iraq's new government, Bush said.



President Bush answers a question during a visit to the Arie Crown Theater in Chicago May 22, 2006. REUTERS/Kevin Lamarque

"Something fundamental changed," with the May 20 formation of Prime Minister al-Maliki's government," he said. "The terrorists are now fighting a free and constitutional government. They are at war with the people of Iraq."

The president predicted that years later, people will look back and see this establishment of Iraq's government as a "decisive moment in the history of liberty," where freedom gained "firm foothold" in the Middle East.

The Iraqi people "have proved that the desire for liberty in the heart of

the Middle East is for real," Bush said. "They've shown diverse people can come together and work out their differences and find a way forward. And they've demonstrated that democracy is the hope of the Middle East and the destiny of all mankind."

A transcript of the president's speech [[www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2006/05/20060522-1.html](http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2006/05/20060522-1.html)] on the global war on terror is available on the White House Web site.

For additional information on U.S. policies, see Iraq Update [[http://usinfo.state.gov/mena/middle\\_east\\_north\\_africa/iraq.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/mena/middle_east_north_africa/iraq.html)].

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## Wikipedia Promotes Free Speech, Encourages "Global Conversation"

By Tim Receveur  
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- The online encyclopedia Wikipedia is helping transform the Internet from an English-first medium to a global repository of knowledge in a multitude of languages, and the founder -- Jimmy Wales -- spends much of his time promoting freedom of speech around the world.

"It does not take a lot of technology to foster open dialog and debate," Wales said during a May 19 State Department-sponsored webchat. "What is needed mostly, I think, is more content in local languages, and support from people around the world to help others join in the global conversation."

Wikipedia, a free multilingual Web-based encyclopedia written by thousands of volunteers around the globe in many languages, was founded in 2001 and has grown, according to its Web site, "into the largest reference website on the Internet." It is funded by donations from the general public.

"Wikipedia has been very successful in our multilingual efforts," Wales said. "Less than 1/3 of our total work is in English. The fact that all of our work is freely licensed means that the impact of our work is only beginning to be felt."

According to the Wikipedia Web site, there are more than 200 language editions of Wikipedia, around 130 of which are active. Fourteen editions -- English (the original), German, French, Polish, Japanese, Dutch, Italian, Swedish, Portuguese, Spanish, Russian, Chinese, Norwegian and Finnish --

contain more than 50,000 articles each.

The "wiki" in Wikipedia comes from the Hawaiian phrase "wiki wiki" meaning quick. In this case, "a wiki is a type of website that allows users to easily add, remove, or otherwise edit all content, very quickly and easily, sometimes without the need for registration," the Web site notes.

Wales calls himself an "uncompromising defender" of free speech, and has lectured throughout the world on free speech issues.

"Restrictions on the freedom of speech are always unhealthy for societies. Strong dissent, even when mistaken, is never as great a threat as suppression of the free flow of information," he said during the webchat.

The Wikipedia community self-polices its own articles, Wales said. "We do not have in-house editors. Most glaring errors will be reverted within minutes. More subtle errors of course may take longer to correct ... as in any traditional source."

Asked if Wikipedia could exist in China despite the "great fire wall," Wales said Wikipedia "does exist in the Chinese language, and it is one of our very successful projects. The Chinese blocking is unfortunate, but will not stop our work. Many people from mainland

China access Wikipedia every day ... the firewall does not really work to stop people from participating."

As for the efforts of companies such as Google and Microsoft to



get into the Chinese market, Wales said "it is important that when companies do business anywhere in the world, they do so while paying very careful attention to ethics, and to making sure that they are not supporting aspects of those societies which infringe upon human rights."

More information on Jimmy Wales [[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jimmy\\_Wales](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jimmy_Wales)] can be found on the Wikipedia Web site.

The transcript [<http://usinfo.state.gov/eur/Archive/2006/May/19-219197.html>] of the chat is available on USINFO's Webchat Station [<http://usinfo.state.gov/usinfo/Products/Webchats.html>].

For additional information, see Internet Freedom [[http://usinfo.state.gov/dhr/democracy/internet\\_freedom.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/dhr/democracy/internet_freedom.html)]. ♦

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## Education Transforms Lives, Rice Says

Washington -- Education is a life-changing experience and a privilege that carries obligations as well, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice says.

The secretary gave the commencement address at Boston College May 22 and also received an honorary degree from the institution. She told the graduates and their families that education transforms lives.

"That is why people work so hard to become educated," Rice said, "and that is why education has always been the key to the American Dream." She called education "the force that erases arbitrary divisions of race and class and culture and unlocks every person's God-given potential."

Rice also said education carries with it obligations for its recipients as well as benefits. She enumerated five responsibilities for educated people:

- Find and follow your passion;
- Commit to using reason;
- Reject false pride;
- Be optimistic; and
- Act on your ideals.

Rice said she found her life's passion by chance at a time when she

had abandoned one dream but had not replaced it with anything else. At the University of Denver she



**U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice speaks during commencement ceremonies at Boston College in Massachusetts May 22, 2006. REUTERS/Brian Snyder**

took a course on international politics taught by Josef Korbel, a Czech refugee who specialized in studies of the Soviet Union. Korbel, who died in 1977, was the father of former secretary of state Madeleine Albright.

"With that one class, I was hooked," Rice said. "I discovered that my passion was Russia and all things Russian."

In committing to reason, Rice urged graduates to examine their own opinions and to attack their

personal prejudices, using reason as the tool. Even though this can be unsettling, she said, it is the only way to grow intellectually. A life without questions provides a false comfort, she said.

"It's possible today to live in an echo chamber that serves only to reinforce your own high opinion of yourself and what you think," Rice said. "That is a temptation that educated people have a responsibility to reject."

For her, the most important responsibility is to work to advance human progress, she said.

Educated people, she said, must reject prejudices and "help close the gaps of justice and opportunity" still present in the United States and around the globe.

"Remember your responsibilities to find your passion, to use your reason, to cultivate humility, to remain optimistic and always to serve others," Rice said in closing.

Rice's remarks [[www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2006/66630.htm](http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2006/66630.htm)] are available on the State Department Web site.

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

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## Online Filtering and Censorship at Issue on the Internet

By Carolee Walker  
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- "Text messaging," "chat rooms," "blogs," "e-zines." These are just a few of the new Internet tools for spreading information and opinions. Does the Internet create a new world of free speech? Or does it pose problems that call for limits on such freedom?

As Internet activity expands worldwide, methods of filtering have become more far-reaching. Today a number of nations censor Internet communication in some fashion.

In 2005, the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), an independent and nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting press freedom around the world, documented Internet censorship in 22 countries.

Different governments have different reasons for filtering the Internet. Protecting national security and community-accepted standards of decency are frequently cited goals. Yet on occasion, legitimate efforts to regulate Internet access to advance these goals have encountered legal difficulties.

The U.S. government believes the Internet is a powerful tool for innovation, commerce and the wide dissemination of expression, according to Josette Shiner, under secretary of state for economic, business and agricultural affairs in an article published in the Financial Times in May.

"Nonetheless, we oppose illicit online activities, such as copyright infringement, child pornography crimes, and criminal incitement to

commit violent acts," Shiner wrote.

In the United States, the Communications Decency Act of 1996, which would have required Internet service providers (ISPs) to prevent the distribution of "indecent" material to children, was ruled unconstitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court.

In this context, few people questioned whether the U.S. Congress really intended to protect community-accepted standards of decency.

In other cases, however, the real objective behind filtering -- even filtering undertaken with the alleged purpose of combating "indecent" -- is to curtail or censor political dissent. Pornography sites are blocked completely in Saudi Arabia, but John Palfrey, executive director of Harvard Law School's Berkman Center for Internet and Society, told the Washington File, that filtering in that country has become more pervasive and covers many topics beyond pornography.

### **GOVERNMENTS USE CITIZENS TO POLICE INTERNET USE**

According to the Country Reports on Human Rights Practices -- 2005, released by the State Department's Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor in March, efforts to restrict access to the Internet are commonplace. (See related article [[http://usinfo.state.gov/dhr/Archive/2006/Mar/08-](http://usinfo.state.gov/dhr/Archive/2006/Mar/08-930887.html)

[930887.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/dhr/Archive/2006/Mar/08-930887.html)].)

In several countries, including Venezuela, Belarus, China and Saudi Arabia, according to the report, the state determines what kinds of Web sites people should not be permitted to access, and then arranges for those Web sites to be blocked. Governments also frequently have required ISPs, including American companies Google and Yahoo, operating outside the United States, to install software that enforces the country's censorship laws.



In some countries, including China and Singapore, ISPs also are required to "police" their clients. Chinese and Singaporean authorities permit citizens to

get general information or to have a chat room or blog to exchange ideas. If monitors listening to a chat room or "viewing" a blog find that people have exceeded the legal boundaries of speech in that country, the chat room or blog will be closed down, or the ISPs themselves will be subjected to penalties or worse.

According to the Country Reports on Human Rights Practices -- 2005, China employs up to 50,000 people to monitor citizens' Internet use and to control its content.

### **AVOIDING INTERNET CENSORSHIP**

"This issue has turned into a complex cat-and-mouse game in the past few years as the rise of citi-

*(Continued on page 19)*

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## Online Filtering and Censorship at Issue on the Internet . . .

(Continued from page 18)

zen-generated media has become an important topic," Palfrey observed. In recent years various strategies have been devised by those intent on evading would-be restrictions on or censorship of Internet speech.



According to a National Intelligence Open Source Center (formerly the Foreign Broadcast Information Service) report in January, despite the constant threat of government censorship and imprisonment in Iran, blogs have become an important means of communication for men and, perhaps even more important, for women in that country. Iranian bloggers have found ways to bypass filtering by running sites through multiple servers and using foreign-based blog servers.

New software programs also have been developed to help people avoid censorship by enabling them to operate online anonymously. The California-based company Anonymizer specializes in developing technology that helps people protect their online identity by preventing other computers from being able to identify the user's computer's Internet Protocol (IP) address. Another software program,

called FreeNet, is intended to make a person "invisible" on the Web.

According to a December 2005 CNN.com article, Freenet is decentralized, "which means there is no central server and no one knows who's using it so it cannot be shut down." On the other hand, this decentralized feature "also opens up the service to abuse, potentially by pedophiles, terrorists and other criminals."

Since its launch in February, according to Shiner, the State Department's Global Internet Freedom Task Force has been reviewing the foreign policy aspects of Internet freedom, including the use of technology to restrict access to political content and to track and repress dissidents and the impact of these trends on U.S. companies.

### REGULATING THE INTERNET IN THE UNITED STATES

All this points out the tremendous challenges involved in developing policies and legal frameworks to govern use of the Internet. In the United States, laws to regulate broadcast media have been in place for decades.

With printed media, jurisdiction issues are straightforward, J. Beckwith "Becky" Burr, a partner at the Washington law firm Wilmer Hale, told the Washington File: "We know when things are printed they are subject to whatever law is applicable in the place where they are printed, and you know where the material is being distributed."

Burr, who chaired the task force on privatization of the Internet do-

main name system, said that neither factor necessarily applies to information "printed" on the Internet.

"The profound question is if I put in a URL [Uniform Resource Locator, an Internet address] and go to an Internet site on a server in the United States, and I read it at my desk in France, have I gone to the United States or has information been sent to me in France? People have, over time, developed a general sense that you are going to the place where the server is located," Burr said, "but that is not a philosophy that is universally shared."

For example, German efforts to regulate neo-Nazi speech and pornography, which are protected by free speech laws in the United States, have led to the prosecution and extradition of non-Germans who "send" neo-Nazi material into Germany.

No international laws or treaties restrict Internet filtering to protect freedom of speech or freedom of association. Palfrey said that although people have sought to apply human rights conventions to protect against Internet censorship around the world, this never has been implemented. (See related article [<http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/Archive/2005/Nov/16-857624.html>].)

For more information, see Freedom of the Press [[http://usinfo.state.gov/dhr/democracy/rule\\_of\\_law/press\\_freedom.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/dhr/democracy/rule_of_law/press_freedom.html)] and Internet Freedom [[http://usinfo.state.gov/dhr/democracy/internet\\_freedom.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/dhr/democracy/internet_freedom.html)]. ♦

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## United States, Nigeria Working in Partnership Against Corruption . . .

*(Continued from page 7)*

### **DEMOCRACY PROMOTION "FOREMOST" U.S. POLICY OBJECTIVE**

Thomas-Greenfield told the lawmakers that democracy promotion is the "foremost" U.S. policy objective in Nigeria. "Corruption undermines democracy in Nigeria. Good governance and accountability builds trust in the democratic system and elected officials."

Looking ahead, Thomas-Greenfield said Nigeria's 2007 presidential and legislative elections "pose a unique opportunity for democratic consolidation. Members of the Nigerian House and Senate ... recently voted against the constitutional amendment that would have allowed the president to run for a third term --

despite reports of votes being bought ...."

"Notwithstanding the controversy surrounding this contentious issue," she said, "the greatest U.S. concern regarding corruption and democracy in Nigeria is that serious work remains to be done to realize genuinely transparent and legitimate elections in 2007."

For additional information on U.S. policy, see Africa [<http://usinfo.state.gov/af>] and Bribery and Corruption [[http://usinfo.state.gov/ei/economic\\_issues/bribery\\_and\\_corruption.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/ei/economic_issues/bribery_and_corruption.html)].

*(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)* ♦

## U.S. Wants To Help Emerging Democracies "Find Their Own Voices" . . .

*(Continued from page 8)*

erhood need to make clear their commitment to following a democratic process and to nonviolent solutions.

As for U.S. aid to Egypt, despite concerns of the government's treatment of political opponents, Zoellick said, "I do not think it would be useful to cut the aid," and that U.S. financial support "is in our mutual interest" in areas such as encouraging financial reform and the bilateral military partnership.

"Egypt is a very important partner to the United States, and ... we've been very forthright about the process of trying to support the economic reforms and encourage the political reforms, and when we've had disagreements we haven't been shy in stating them,"

he said.

### **CONFLICT IN SUDAN**

Zoellick said that the peace agreement recently brokered for Sudan is "an important opportunity. But it's only an opening."

"We need more food, as people have said. My government has already provided 85 percent of the food. We're trying to get others to contribute. We're contributing more," he said.

He also has been talking with African Union members, as well as leaders from Egypt, Tunisia and Turkey about the need to bolster peacekeeping forces.

"[O]ne of my little sub-purposes here [in Cairo] is to try to organize some additional troop contributions

for a U.N. operation," he said. (See related article [<http://usinfo.state.gov/af/Archive/2006/May/22-719656.html>].)

Zoellick added that he hopes the U.N. quickly will complete its assessment mission in Darfur.

The transcript [[www.state.gov/s/d/rem/2006/66540.htm](http://www.state.gov/s/d/rem/2006/66540.htm)] of Zoellick's remarks can be found at the State Department Web site.

For additional information on U.S. policies, see Middle East and North Africa [<http://usinfo.state.gov/mena>].

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