



# Weekly Special Report



Produced by the Public Affairs Section

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## Doing Business with the U.S.

The US Embassy Commercial Section in collaboration with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) took part in the 11th Addis Ababa Chamber International Trade Fair from February 22-28, 2007. The USA trade booth was opened by Ambassador Don Yamamoto and Minister of Trade and Industry Girma Birru.



Ambassador Yamamoto (second from right) shares lively moment with Minister Girma Birru (far right) at the Trade Fair joined by USAID Director Glenn Anders (far left) and Commercial Officer Nick Namba.

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## Africa Center Senior Leaders Seminar Opens in Addis



U.S. Ambassador Donald Yamamoto, Deputy Commander U.S. European Command General William Ward, President Girma Wolde Giorgis, former President of Mozambique Joaquim Chissano and ACSS Director Ambassador Peter Chaveas posing for photo.

The Africa Center for Strategic Studies' Senior Leaders Seminar (SLS) opened in the diplomatic capital of Africa, Addis Ababa, on February 26 with welcome remarks by Ambassador (ret.) Peter R. Chaveas, Director of the Africa Center for Strategic Studies based in Washington, D.C. Addressing 96 participants and distinguished guests from the diplomatic corps, Ambassador

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## Africa Center Senior Leaders Seminar Opens in Addis . . .

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Chaveas explained that the Senior Leaders Seminar was the Africa Center's flagship program and that this was the second time the prestigious seminar was being held in Addis Ababa. U.S. Ambassador to Ethiopia Don Yamamoto commented on the significance for African of bringing together senior level people from so many African countries to focus on security issues. The President of Ethiopia, H.E. Girma W/Giorgis, officially opened the seminar.

Following the opening ceremony, former President of Mozambique. Joaquim Chissano delivered a keynote address. Reflecting on the current state of security affairs on the African continent, Chissano stated, "We have a better understanding of the various arms of government, multi-party politics, greater respect for human rights, reform of constitutions, reduction of

poverty, and improved access to education." He expressed his belief that people should not depend solely on government, and that through their own initiative and action they can bring about great change. Highlighting his own example of how he built railroads in Mozambique, Chissano encouraged African governments to also take initiative in order to attract international attention, investment and support.

The two-week Senior Leaders Seminar is a discussion forum in which participants from African countries address issues affecting national and international security, including counterterrorism, civil-military relations, defense economics and democratic governance. Participants work through plenary and small group discussions facilitated by African, European and American academics and subject matter experts.

The four modules of the seminar – counterterrorism, security studies, civil-military relations and defense economics – are designed to help participants achieve a comprehensive definition of security, which includes approaches for identifying and addressing problems facing civil and military leaders in Africa; focusing attention on the need for political participation, transparency, and professionalism; identifying key challenges to civil-military relations; and demonstrating how national security goals and democracy are advanced by prudent management of economic resources.

The Africa Center for Strategic Studies supports U.S. policy in Africa by bringing civilian and military leaders together for informed debate on current security challenges facing Africa and the international community. For more information about the Africa Center, visit [www.africacenter.org](http://www.africacenter.org). ♦

## Doing Business with the U.S. . . .

*(Continued from page 1)*

The Addis Chamber trade fair has become a main event for the business community in Ethiopia and this year's was the largest so far, attracting a record 320 companies, close to half of which were foreign companies. The United States participated in the trade fair to promote several dynamic U.S. programs and policies designed to increase business linkages between the U.S. and Ethiopia. Parallel to the trade fair, the Embassy organized a half-day seminar at the Addis Hilton entitled "Doing Business with the U.S." which attracted close to a hundred local businesspeople interested in learning about how they can create or expand business connections with the United States. ♦



Participants at the 'Doing Business with the U.S.' seminar applauding Ambassador Yamamoto's closing remarks on February 27, 2007

## U.S. Supports Ethiopia's Initiative to Improve Higher Education Donation Ceremony Marks Handover of More Than 16,000 Books

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2007 Addis Ababa (U.S. Embassy) – As part of its ongoing commitment to support Ethiopia's educational system, the United States government facilitated a donation of more than 16,000 books for the Ministry of Education. The books are destined for use in 13 universities across the country.

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) funded the shipping cost to Ethiopia for books from the Brother's Brother Foundation through the International Foundation for Education and Self-Help (IFESH), an NGO based in Arizona, USA.

Speaking at a handover ceremony at the Ministry of Education, USAID/Ethiopia Mission Director Glenn Anders said that "This donation, made possible by the Brothers-Brother Foundation based in the United States,

complements the great work of IFESH to enhance teaching and learning in Ethiopia's teacher education institutions and universities. USAID and the American people are proud work in partnership with the Ministry of Education" Also attending the ceremony were Minister of Education, Dr. Sintayehu Woldemichael, and State Minister for Higher Education, Dr. Adhana Haile.

IFESH/Ethiopia has worked in Ethiopia since 1995. In the IFESH "Teachers for Africa" program, volunteer teachers from America sup-

port the Ministry of Education's initiative to change the traditional lecture method and teacher-dominated classroom setting to an active and student learner method. Working with Ethiopian counterparts, Ameri-

The IFESH program, funded by USAID, complements USAID's Basic Education Program to improve the quality of primary education in Ethiopia. Providing educational materials and supplies is an impor-



USAID/Ethiopia Mission Director Glenn Anders (left) shakes hand with State Minister of Education Dr. Adhana Haile at the donation ceremony.

can volunteers have trained primary school teachers, organized girls' and English language clubs, HIV/AIDS prevention groups, role model projects and computer training programs for students and teachers. Their work not only transfers new knowledge and skills, but also serves as a cultural exchange. In the last ten years, nearly 140 IFESH volunteer teachers have been assigned at 39 educational institutions and to the Ministry of Education. Nearly 50,000 students, teachers and community members in Ethiopia have directly benefited from the volunteer teachers.

tant part of the IFESH program. To date, nearly 30 shipping containers of books have been distributed to teacher training institutions and universities. In the last three years alone, books worth over US \$2 million have been donated. ♦

Press Contact: Kimberly Flowers  
Telephone: 091-150-0414  
Email: kiflowers@usaid.gov

## Secondary Students Wrap Up Two-Year Program in English Study and ‘Life Skills’

Addis Ababa (U.S. Embassy) – A group of hard-working secondary students celebrated the completion of year one of a two-year program of part-time study in English and ‘life skills’ on February 17, 2007 at Alem Cinema, along with their families and teachers. These students are part of a U.S. Embassy-sponsored program that provides after-school and weekend classes in English language, health, entrepreneurship, and computer skills. The program is funded through a U.S. State Department initiative to promote English language learning in countries around the world.

Called ‘Stepping Up to the Future,’ the program encourages students to prepare themselves early for work and life, by teaching them skills that are not always emphasized in formal schools. For example, in their first year, the students learned how to design a business plan for a small enterprise. During the summer between the first and second years of the program, students undertook summer internships with local businesses in Addis. Through these experiences, they gained exposure to the working world, and a better understanding of what they need to do, and learn, in order to be ready for a future career.

U.S. Ambassador Don Yamamoto presented certificates to seventy-seven students who for the past year have spent one evening a week plus every Saturday at the Study Center, in addition to their regular studies. The Ambassador

congratulated them on their hard work and dedication, and recognized their parents and families as well, noting that the support and encouragement of parents and fam-

ple will volunteer to host interns from the Study Center program in 2007. “Young people who have benefited from the program may grow up to run leading-edge compa-



Ambassador Donald Yamamoto hands certificate to the students who completed the English study and life skills program.

ily is an important component of academic success.

“Ensuring the future success of Ethiopia’s youth requires a commitment from many different players – the public sector, the private sector, individuals, and institutions both local and international,” said General Manager of The Study Center, Ato Seif Tewfik at the event. Ato Seif mentioned that private and public sector employers in Ethiopia may be unaccustomed to the idea of hosting young people as interns in the workplace, and he hopes that more companies and businesspeo-

nies in Ethiopia, employing 100, 200, or even 1,000 employees. Helping them get a head start today can have significant impact on Ethiopia’s economic and social development,” he said.

The Study Center/British International School is an English medium school and English language learning center located on the Ring Road near Bole. ♦

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## U.S. Diplomat Sees Progress in Somalia

By Jim Fisher-Thompson  
USINFO Staff Writer

Washington -- Somalia's struggle to form a unified government after 15 years of clan warfare is achieving success, thanks to partners in the Horn of Africa region like Ethiopia and with help from the United Nations, the African Union (AU) and the United States, Ambassador Vicki Huddleston told the Council on Foreign Relations February 22 in Washington.

Huddleston, a former U.S. envoy to Mali and Madagascar, recently served for 15 months as acting ambassador to Ethiopia, whose government, she said, was instrumental in "pressing for dialogue" between the Somali Transitional Federal Government (TFG) and the Islamic Courts Council (ICC), a radical Islamist movement that had wrested control of the country until driven from power by a coalition of TFG and Ethiopian forces in December 2006 after talks failed.

Before that victory, "many warned that if Ethiopia intervened on behalf of the transitional government it would fuel a wider war. They were all wrong," Huddleston told the CFR panel.

Now "Ethiopia's and the Somali government's surprisingly easy victories have given Somalia -- and the West -- a second chance to get things right," said Huddleston, who returned in December 2006 from Addis Ababa.

As it stands now, "we do have a success in Somalia," the diplomat said. After cooperating with the TFG to remove the ICC threat, she added, "about one-third of the Ethiopian troops have already withdrawn. There will be a second



Ambassador Vicki Huddleston

phase and third phase of withdrawal that hopefully will coincide with the arrival of AU peacekeepers."

Nations that volunteered troops for the AU force in a move recently approved by the U.N. Security Council include Uganda, Burundi and "possibly Nigeria and Tanzania," Huddleston told the panel.

The United Nations approved a force of 8,000 peacekeepers, of which about 4,000 have been pledged so far. The United States will support the deployment by providing \$15 million for airlift and other logistics, she added. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-english&y=2007&m=February&x=20070221171027atayduj0.8411676>.)

"A window of opportunity has opened" in Somalia, Huddleston said, and "before the Islamists close it by disrupting efforts to stabilize Mogadishu ... strong U.S. leadership will prevent Somalia from becoming a haven for al-Qaeda terrorism in Africa."

The United States has taken a lead in bringing together the international community in a concerted effort to turn Somalia into a viable state through the International Contact Group on Somalia.

Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Jendayi Frazer, who represents the United States in the group, has placed Somalia high on her agenda. After making a number of visits to the region, she recently briefed the Senate Foreign Relations Committee Subcommittee on Africa on the crisis.

After a trip in January, Frazer told the panel, "The most striking lesson I took away from the visit is this: Somalis are ready for peace. While developments on the ground have maintained a frenetic pace, there are many reasons to be hopeful."

"Along with our African and international partners, the United States will remain engaged in supporting ... the process of dialogue, while also attending to the humanitarian needs of the Somali people," she said. At the last contact group meeting, Frazer said, the United States pledged \$40.5 million in new funding for Somalia.

Somalis themselves are working to achieve national unity, especially on the military level, Huddleston told the CFR panel.

About 10,000 Somalis have been merged into a TFG security force representing all the clans. This is important, she emphasized, because "in the end, whether Somalia succeeds or not will depend on all Somalis" and their ability to govern themselves and provide their own security. ♦

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# United States Welcomes Approval of Somalia Peacekeeping Force

By Judy Aita  
USINFO United Nations Correspondent

United Nations -- The Security Council vote authorizing an African Union (AU) peacekeeping mission in Somalia was an important moment for the people of Somalia, U.S. officials say.

The Security Council February 20 unanimously authorized the AU mission for an initial period of six months and instructed Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to investigate the possibility of the United Nations taking over the operation at a later date. It also instructed the secretary-general to report back in 60 days with recommendations for the United Nation's "further engagement in support of peace and security in Somalia."

The United States was a co-sponsor of the resolution, along with the Republic of Congo, Ghana, Panama, Slovakia, South Africa and the United Kingdom.

In Washington, State Department deputy spokesman Tom Casey called the vote "an important moment for the people of Somalia."

"It's an opportunity for them after many, many years to have a fully functioning government, and we certainly want to do what we can to support that and help ensure peace in that country," Casey said.

The resolution, the State Department spokesman said, provides important support for the African Union in its effort to mount another peacekeeping mission in Africa. It shows "the broader support of the international community," he said.

Casey encouraged nations to step forward and provide troops for the

mission.

The African Union said earlier in the month that Burundi, Ghana, Malawi, Nigeria and Uganda have offered a total of about 4,000 troops. Although the current resolution does not mention the mission's size, the AU previously endorsed a



plan to send 8,000 troops into the east African nation, which has been torn apart by civil war since 1991.

The new mission, to be known as AMISOM, will provide protection for the U.N.-backed Transitional Federal Institutions to help them carry out government functions and provide security for key infrastructure. AMISOM also will support the dialogue and reconciliation process in Somalia by helping to provide free movement, safe passage and protection for those involved in the process. The peacekeepers also will provide security for humanitarian operations.

The resolution, adopted under Chapter 7 of the U.N. Charter, authorizes AMISOM "to take all necessary measures as appropriate" to fulfill its mandate.

The resolution recognizes that AMISOM will help with the initial stabilization phase and will "evolve into a United Nations operation that will support the long-term stabilization and post-conflict restoration of So-

malia." AMISOM, the resolution said, will help avoid a security vacuum and create the conditions for the full withdrawal of the Ethiopian troops that helped Somali troops repel Islamist rebels in December 2006.

The Security Council also eased the arms embargo imposed on the country in 1992 to allow "weapons and military equipment and technical training and assistance intended solely for the support of or use by" the peacekeepers.

Resolution 1744 overrides a December 2006 resolution that authorized an operation led by a regional group, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, which had a more limited mandate.

The United States initiated the December 2006 resolution in an effort to stabilize the situation and help start a critical dialogue between the Transitional Federal Institutions and the Union of Islamic Courts.

Ambassador John Bolton, who was the chief U.S. envoy to the United Nations at the time, said that the United States "views the deployment of a regional force to Somalia as a key element in preventing conflict" and "a critical element to help resume credible dialogue." The United States, Bolton said, will work with its African and other partners toward that end.

For more information on U.S. policy in the region, see Peace and Security ( [http://usinfo.state.gov/af/africa/peace\\_security.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/af/africa/peace_security.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. Aid to Africa Triples During Bush Administration

By Melissa Martinez and Jim Fisher-Thompson  
USINFO Staff Writers

Washington -- By tripling U.S. assistance funds for Africa, President Bush has made good on promises made at two Group of Eight (G8) summits that the United States will support development on the continent, a senior U.S. aid official says.

Walter North, acting assistant administrator for Africa at the U.S. Agency for International Development, spoke February 21 to USINFO about the \$3.6 billion in humanitarian and development aid to Africa that he currently oversees.

"If you look at the level of resources moving to Africa, it is astounding," said North, a former Peace Corps volunteer in Ethiopia. For example, after Iraq and Afghanistan, Sudan -- just one of dozens of African aid recipients -- now ranks third among nations receiving the most aid from the United States.

In addition to providing humanitarian aid in places like Mozambique, which recently experienced a devastating flood, USAID also administers health, education and governance programs in more than 40 other African nations.

In the field of health, North's agency has provided hundreds of thousands of HIV/AIDS retroviral treatments for Africans as part of President Bush's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR).

"President Bush has reinforced the promises America made during G8 Summits at Monterey [Mexico in 2002] and Gleneagles [Scotland in

2005], and this is really heartening," North said. The G8 includes the world's most industrialized nations.

The president also has an involvement with Africa that goes beyond politics, North said. Bush surprised



A researcher in Nigeria checks blood samples for HIV/AIDS. (AP Images)

many when he visited the continent in July 2003, just three months after coalition forces intervened in Iraq.

One example of the U.S. commitment to Africa North cited is the Ambassadors' Girls' Scholarship Program. Under the education initiative, this program provides financial support for the education of vulnerable girls at the primary and secondary levels in Africa.

In 2006, some 175,000 girls in 40 African countries received the scholarships, known as bursaries. Although largely unheralded by the press, the scholarship program is vital on a continent where most public schools charge fees and where girls are the first to drop out of school when family incomes diminish.

USAID is not the only organization committed to dramatic increases in

assistance to Africa, North said. At the 2005 G8 Summit in Gleneagles, Scotland, the international community committed to doubling assistance to Africa by 2010, an increased commitment equivalent to an additional \$25 billion. (See fact sheet (<http://usinfo.state.gov/ei/Archive/2005/Jul/08-755907.html> ).)

### FINDING WAYS TO SERVE AFRICA BETTER

North also discussed a reform process USAID is undertaking to serve its African development partners better.

"It's about trying to get people focused on the country that we are working in and look at where it is, where its leadership is, what the requirements are for it to move forward, to try to marshal the resources and focus them to advance that country" toward a higher level of performance, he explained.

In that regard, Mozambique has proven to be "a great success story," he added.

After experiencing "a horrible civil war," North said, Mozambique has "been at peace for 10 to 15 years and has reconnected with the rest of the world," thanks to development partnerships with the United States and other international donors.

"The United States partnered with the southern African nation to restructure and reconstruct," North explained, and now "they have had robust economic growth rates and became eligible for U.S. development programs like the Millennium Challenge Corporation."

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## Intelligence Officials Target Terrorist Safe Havens

By David McKeeby  
USINFO Staff Writer

Washington -- Nations must do more to prevent terrorists from establishing safe havens in lawless corners of the world, say top U.S. intelligence officials.

"Many nation states are unable to provide good governance or sustain the rule of law within their borders," Director of National Intelligence Mike McConnell said in testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee February 27.

This sets the conditions for creating "failed states, proxy states, terrorist safe havens, and ungoverned regions that endanger the international community and its citizens," he said.

McConnell, who recently succeeded Ambassador John Negroponte as head of 16 agencies that make up the U.S. intelligence community, was joined by Lieutenant General Michael Maples of the Defense Intelligence Agency and Thomas Fingar, who chairs the National Intelligence Council, to deliver an assessment of current and emerging national security threats.

Terrorism remains the top threat to U.S. security, and al-Qaeda, which is rebuilding itself and strengthening its ties to affiliated groups in the Middle East, Africa and Europe, is the intelligence community's pre-eminent challenge, they said. Although conventional explosives are the terrorist's weapon of choice, Maples warned that intelligence agencies receive reports that al-Qaeda continues to seek chemical, biological and nuclear weapons for use in future attacks.

With the help of allies such as Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and the United Kingdom, Maples said, the United States successfully has disrupted attacks, such as the 2006 plot to bomb U.S.-bound trans-Atlantic flights, and brought several senior al-Qaeda operatives to justice, such as al-Qaeda in Iraq leader Abu-Musab al-Zarqawi.

But while 75 percent of al-Qaeda's leadership has been killed or captured, McConnell said that a new generation of terrorists is training in Iraq, the Afghanistan-Pakistan border region and East Africa.

In Iraq, Maples said, al-Qaeda accounts for a fraction of the overall violence, but its focus on executing large-scale, mass casualty bombings has magnified the group's impact on the country's complex security situation by accelerating Sunni-Shia violence.

"Conflict in Iraq is in a self-sustaining cycle, in which violent acts increasingly generate retaliation," he said. "Insecurity rationalizes and justifies militias, in particular Shia militias, which increase fears in the Sunni-Arab community. The result is additional support or at least acquiescence to insurgents and terrorists, such as al-Qaeda in Iraq."

Maples told senators that Iraq's Shia militias have been discovered training in neighboring Iran as well as in facilities operated by the Iranian-backed Hezbollah in southern Lebanon.

In Afghanistan, McConnell said that both al-Qaeda and the Taliban maintain "critical sanctuaries" in Pakistan's northwestern tribal regions

bordering Afghanistan. Eliminating these strongholds will be top priorities this year, said intelligence officials, as well as breaking the link between militants and local warlords profiting from drug trafficking.

While praising the work of neighboring Pakistan, McConnell criticized President Pervez Musharraf for making agreements with local tribal leaders who since have allowed the Taliban and al-Qaeda to regroup.

"The president of Pakistan believed that he could be more effective by signing this peace agreement," he said. "And in our point of view, capabilities of al-Qaeda for training and so on increased."

McConnell's comments came the day after Vice President Cheney met with Musharraf in Islamabad to discuss security along the border region. "We believe [Pakistan] could do more," McConnell added. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-english&y=2007&m=February&x=20070226163249idybeekcm0.308758> ).)

Al-Qaeda also remains determined to exploit instability in Somalia, the officials said, making East Africa a region where the intelligence community is working to build up its supply of analysts and area experts.

Fingar said terrorists affiliated with Hezbollah are known to be active in the "Tri-border Region" straddling Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay.

*(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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## Al-Qaeda Threat in Western Hemisphere Should Be Taken Seriously

By Stephen Kaufman  
USINFO Staff Writer

Washington -- In the wake of al-Qaeda's threat to attack oil facilities in the Western Hemisphere supplying the United States, a State Department official said the Bush administration takes those threats seriously and has offered to collaborate with all countries in the region, including Venezuela, which specifically was targeted.

Speaking to USINFO February 20, Alberto Fernandez, the director of public diplomacy in the State Department's Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs, said al-Qaeda is seeking alternative means to strike at the United States and has "a track record of attacking economic and oil targets."

On February 14, a Saudi wing of al-Qaeda posted an announcement on an Internet site threatening to "hit oil interests in all regions which serve the United States, not just in the Middle East," with a goal to "cut its supplies or reduce them through any means." It specifically threatened Canada, Venezuela and Mexico.

"We have to take it seriously because al-Qaeda has a track record of announcing things and fulfilling them," Fernandez said. "There is enough evidence for concern without exaggerating it."

He said al-Qaeda has attempted attacks on petroleum installations in Saudi Arabia and Yemen, and attempted to set a French super-tanker ablaze despite its government's political differences with the United States.

Venezuela, which has been strongly critical of the United States and has cultivated ties with state supporters

of terrorism such as Iran and Syria, would be "very, very mistaken" to assume it would not be targeted.

"Within the context of al-Qaeda [those relationships] means absolutely nothing," Fernandez said. "Iran has actually been a target of



Alberto Fernandez, director of public diplomacy in the State Department's Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs (State Dept.)

al-Qaeda as well, and certainly Iran and the Shia population of Iran are not seen in any favorable light by al-Qaeda."

In order to inflict harm on American targets, al-Qaeda has shown its willingness to kill hundreds of bystanders from other countries indiscriminately, "whether these are hundreds of Africans, with the attacks on our embassies in Africa, or whether these are Germans in Tunisia or Australians in Bali, or Egyptians in Sharm el-Sheikh," Fernandez said.

For that reason, the United States is concerned about the terrorist threat to Canada, Venezuela and Mexico, as well as to the broader region.

"The United States is willing to collaborate and cooperate with anyone

in the hemisphere to fight this common foe, including Venezuela," he said. "There is ample room for cooperation, a win-win situation where everybody gains with added security and added cooperation."

To date, the most significant terrorist presence in Latin America has been the Iranian-backed Lebanese group Hezbollah, which was responsible for two major attacks in Argentina in 1992 and 1994. However, Fernandez said al-Qaeda was responsible for two attacks in the northern part of the Western Hemisphere, in 1993 at the World Trade Center and the September 11, 2001, attacks on New York and Washington.

He said there is concern that al-Qaeda could make a connection with other groups in the region engaged in narco-terrorism or gang activity, such as Mara Salvatrucha (MS 13). There also is continuing concern over the tri-border area of Paraguay, Brazil and Argentina – due not only to Hezbollah activity, but to " Hamas and al-Qaeda conspiracies as well."

Al-Qaeda looks for "the weakest links they can find" around the world from which to "prepare and plan and carry out acts of terror," he said, recalling its recent activities in Somalia, the southern Philippines and North Waziristan. "None of the countries of the Americas has an interest in seeing that happen for all of our sakes," he said.

"There is enough evidence for concern without exaggerating it." Calling for hemispheric cooperation, Fernandez said, "We all need to take steps to do all we can to prevent this from becoming a worse reality in Latin America." ♦

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## Iran's Nuclear Policies Leading to Greater Isolation, Rice Says

By Howard Cincotta  
USINFO Special Correspondent

Washington -- By refusing to suspend its nuclear enrichment and reprocessing activities, Iran is continuing to isolate itself from the international community, according to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

Responding to Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's stated refusal to "reverse" his country's nuclear program, Rice said, "They don't need a reverse gear. They need a stop button. They need to stop enriching and reprocessing and then we can sit down and talk about whatever is on Iran's mind."

Speaking on Fox News Sunday February 25, Rice pointed out that Iran's nuclear activities already have isolated the nation from the international community through a 15-to-0 Security Council vote for a Chapter 7 resolution that imposes sanctions.

"People are looking hard at ... the investment risk of dealing with a country that is under Chapter 7 status in the international community," she said. "It's very rare to be under Chapter 7. There aren't that many countries that are in that UN category. And I think what we're looking to is that people who don't want to endure that kind of isolation will stop, take a deep breath, and give international negotiations a chance by suspending their program."

Rice added that if Iran suspends its enrichment and reprocessing activities, she would be prepared to meet an Iranian representative at any time. "That should be a clear sig-

nal," she said.

### DEVELOPMENTS IN IRAQ

Turning to Iraq, Rice warned against efforts by Congress to move beyond general oversight of the U.S. foreign and defense policy in Iraq to attempts at calibrating military operations there.

"The president, as commander-in-chief, has to be able to rely on the best military advice," she said on ABC's This Week. "If you ever disrupt that chain, then you're going to have the worst micro-management of military affairs and it's always served us badly in the past."

Asked about the announced draw-down of British troops from the south of Iraq, Rice said that, despite some sectarian conflict, the plan always had been for coalition forces to transfer responsibility to the Iraqis as conditions permitted.

Rice indicated that on her recent trip to Baghdad, Iraq, she had urged the leadership to move more rapidly on political reconciliation, while conceding that the country is dealing with deeply contentious issues.

For example, she said on Fox News Sunday, "The oil law is not just an oil law. It's a law about dividing the resources of the country and therefore maintaining the unity of Iraq, so it's not easy."

### RUSSIA AND NATO

Speaking on Fox News Sunday, Rice called recent criticisms of U.S. foreign policy and NATO by Russian officials "unnecessary and unwar-

ranted," but said she saw no prospect of a return to the Cold War.

The secretary denied that the expansion of NATO, which she called "one of the great stories of the post-Cold War time," should cause Russia any security concerns. As a result of NATO's expansion, Russia now has democratic countries on its border that are eager to trade, and open to discussions of their differences, according to Rice. The secretary also dismissed charges that plans for missile defense systems in Poland and the Czech Republic would in any way threaten Russia's nuclear deterrent force.

Transcripts of Rice's interviews on Fox News Sunday ( <http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2007/feb/81037.htm> ) and ABC's This Week ( <http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2007/feb/81038.htm> ) can be found on the State Department Web site.

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) ) and Russia ( [http://usinfo.state.gov/eur/europe\\_eurasia/russia.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/eur/europe_eurasia/russia.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>)* ♦

## Scholar Proposes International Law as Norm To Assess Elections

By David Anthony Denny  
USINFO Staff Writer

Washington -- The term "free and fair elections" has about six decades of use by national and international media, but what precisely does that term mean?

That was the question put forward by Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellow Michael Boda at an international forum for democratic studies hosted by the National Endowment for Democracy February 20. Boda, the principal speaker, was joined by David Carroll, director of the Carter Center's democracy program, and Patrick Merloe, a senior associate at the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs.

The three men took turns addressing the difficulty of constructing a set of internationally accepted standards by which an election can be assessed to have been legitimate, that is, free and fair.

Boda said there were three ways elections traditionally have been judged: the outcome, the process (the most widely used) and conformance to international law.

Boda contended there should be greater focus on international law when assessing elections. From a practical standpoint, however, observers need to gain a broader and deeper understanding of the election-related international obligations if they are to use them when evaluating elections. He described how a more detailed understanding of these obligations can be established, not only by making a greater effort to consider human rights law, but by looking to other sources of international law. These other sources, such as the case law of international and regional courts

and widely accepted election manuals of international institutions, help shape better-known election principles such as "periodic intervals," "universal suffrage" and "absence of discrimination," he said.

For Boda, the first step in assessing an election is to outline those international legal obligations that relate

Boda emphasized that he was not proposing a method that assigned scores to each part of an election, leading to a simple aggregation of those scores to determine whether an election is conducted freely and fairly. "This kind of approach is not feasible in the context of election observation -- at least not in its current form," he said. "The complexi-



A man casts his ballot in Macedonia. Speakers discussed fair elections at a forum for democratic studies February 20. (AP Images)

to elections. Next, he demonstrated that the electoral process must be properly "framed," offering nine constituent parts, ranging from an election's legislative framework and redistricting, on one end of the cycle, to voter registration, voting operations, and vote counting, on the other. And, finally, he showed how key indicators for each of those parts could be evaluated in relation to election-related international obligations to determine whether those parts and, ultimately, an election have been implemented adequately.

ties are great and many of the measures simply don't lend themselves to quantification. We'd be doing a disservice to the voters and to observers who would find themselves altering the figures arrived at under circumstances where time pressures are abundant in order to complete their assessment." While arguing that greater social scientific rigor should be introduced to the process of collecting data during an election, Boda suggested that the ultimate judgment of an election should rely on the expertise and deliberation of observers who need

*(Continued on page 21)*

# Global Task Force Combats Internet Child-Sex Predators

By Jane Morse  
USINFO Staff Writer

Washington -- "The Internet is a great place for children to learn, have fun and communicate with their peers. But where children go, the child sex predators will follow," says Jim Gamble, chairman of the Virtual Global Task Force (VGT) and chairman of the United Kingdom's Child Exploitation and Online Protection Center (CEOP).

On February 21-22, law enforcement officials from the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada and Australia met in Washington at a VGT conference to explore new ways to combat online pedophiles.

Created in 2003, the VGT is an international partnership of law enforcement agencies cooperating to fight online child abuse. In addition to CEOP, task force members include U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement ICE, the Australian High Tech Crime Centre, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and Interpol. The first VGT conference was held in Belfast, Northern Ireland, in November 2005.

According to Julie Myers, assistant secretary for ICE, "Given the transnational reach of crimes against children, it is more important than ever to have law enforcement agencies across the globe integrate their efforts and pool their resources. The VGT is an innovative response to the globalization of the threat to children."

## INNOVATIVE TELEVISION AD AIMS TO EDUCATE

At the Washington conference, VGT's first commercial was

launched, an ad intended to educate children and adults about the need for Internet safety. The 60-second ad emphasizes the global nature of the Internet and that people online are not always who they say they are.

According to VGT, the ad represents the first time different law enforcement agencies from around the world have worked together to produce an awareness-raising cam-



A police officer posing as a teenager logs into a chat room to crack down on online child predators. (AP Images)

paign. The public service advertisement is expected to have a potential audience of 450 million people across three continents.

In the United Kingdom and Australia, a public awareness campaign already has been launched under the name "thinkuknow." So far it has produced a 1000 percent increase in reports of predatory online behavior to British police via the CEOP Center, VGT says. Seventy-seven sex offenders have been arrested since the 2006 launch of CEOP, which is dedicated to tackling child sex abuse.

"Children have the right to enjoy the virtual world free from predators," Gamble said. "Now they can. They can walk into our virtual police environment and make a re-

port to our combined effort and we will take immediate action.

## PROVIDING A 24/7 RESPONSE

A 24/7 (24 hours a day; seven days a week) watch-system concept was launched by the United Kingdom and Australia in 2005 and adopted in the United States in November 2006.

Under the 24/7 watch system, agencies of VGT member nations rotate shifts as the "on-call Internet police officer" for a portion of each day. Investigators have real-time access to one another to respond to immediate threats, no matter where the alleged violation is taking place. This watch system already has produced successes.

In one case, information provided in a chat room and reported to U.S. authorities indicated that a man living in England planned to molest his children within the next few hours. Investigators in both countries took immediate action working through a team comprised of ICE, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, the CEOP Center and local British police.

Within 120 minutes of the first report, local police officers were at the individual's door. Their resulting investigation uncovered images of child pornography and the individual was arrested.

In the United States, Internet users can report suspicious online activity via the Cyber Tipline on the Web site for the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children. On this Web site, U.S. users can report to VGT suspected danger to a child using the Internet and located in Australia, Canada or the United Kingdom.

*(Continued on page 18)*

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## Free Speech on Internet a Basic Human Right, United States Says

By Stephen Kaufman  
USINFO Staff Writer

Washington -- The U.S. State Department expressed concern over the conviction and sentencing of an Egyptian blogger to four years in prison due to his comments posted online, and said the freedom of expression on the Internet is "part of general, basic human rights."

State Department deputy spokesman Tom Casey said February 22 that 22-year-old Abdel Karim Suleiman is "the first Egyptian blogger to be prosecuted for the contents of his remarks."

Suleiman was convicted by an Alexandria court in connection with eight articles he had written since 2004. Egyptian authorities said the articles were insulting to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and the

Islamic faith.

Casey expressed concern over the curtailment of free speech.

"[C]ertainly, while we have great respect for all religions, including certainly Islam, the role of freedom of expression is critical for the development of a democratic and prosperous society," he said, adding that the right to express one's opinions and views includes what one posts on the Internet.

"I think we view them as part of general, basic human rights," he said.

The deputy spokesman said the Bush administration has discussed the issue in general terms with the Egyptian government and had mentioned Suleiman by name in its 2005 human rights report.

"I understand we'll be discussing this specific action with them as well," he said.

The State Department has increased its efforts to combat Internet censorship around the world, recently allocating \$500,000 in support of Internet freedom projects and is expanding its section concerning online freedom of speech in its upcoming human rights report.

U.S. officials also held a January 30 conference on Internet freedom that brought U.S. officials together with human rights organizations and the corporate world, including leading companies involved in Internet communication, to address government restriction of the flow of information on the Web. ♦

### U.S. Diplomat Sees Progress . . .

*(Continued from page 5)*

Politically, TFG President Abdullahi Yusuf Ahmed also took "a great step" in the right direction in organizing a political conference of 3,000 clan leaders from around the country, the diplomat added.

A country not contributing to stability in Somalia, according to Huddleston, is Eritrea, which, she said, "hoped to use the conflict in Somalia to destabilize its archenemy Ethiopia." But this tactic failed, the diplomat told the CFR audience.

The full text ( <http://www.senate.gov/~foreign/testimony/2007/FrazerTestimony070206.pdf> ) of Frazer's remarks as prepared for delivery to the Africa Subcommittee is available on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee 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>)* ♦

### U.S. Aid to Africa Triples . . .

*(Continued from page 7)*

North made the point that America's commitment to helping Africans often has been linked to foreign policy necessities like fighting the Cold War or supporting the global war on terrorism.

"But there is also another strain to our assistance that is equally as strong and maybe getting stronger," because of the influence of faith-based institutions, North said. "And that's doing this [foreign aid] because it's right and because of the type of people we are -- the human face of the United States and our concern for the poor people of the world."

This means USAID development partnerships in Africa will continue, North said, because "our basic mission is about achieving change and making positive differences in people's lives."

For more information on U.S. policies, see U.S. Aid to Africa ( [http://usinfo.state.gov/af/africa/aid\\_to\\_africa.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/af/africa/aid_to_africa.html) ). ♦

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## United States Seeks Global Harmonization of Air Traffic Control

By Andrzej Zwaniecki  
USINFO Staff Writer

Washington -- Air traffic management systems of the near future must ensure that aircraft moving around the world do so safely and with few delays as air transportation continues to grow, says the head of the U.S. civil aviation regulator.

Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Administrator Marion Blakey said February 20 that air traffic in the United States and other developed markets is at the "saturation point" and skies are likely to get only busier with projected increases in air travel.

In an address to the Royal Aeronautical Society in London, she said the United States and the European Union (EU), the two largest air transportation markets in the world, are trying to meet the challenge by developing their own advanced air traffic management systems – the Next Generation Air Transportation System (NextGen) and the Single European Sky Air Traffic Management Research (SESAR) program.

Blakey said, however, that unless the two parties move in harmony, making sure that these systems are interoperable, management of international air traffic is unlikely to measure up to the growing needs of civil aviation.

"If NextGen and SESAR aren't compatible, ... we've taken a step forward technologically, but taken a step back strategically," she said.

In 2006, the Bush administration and the European Commission signed an agreement to cooperate and collaborate on developing the systems.

Blakey said she hopes that later in 2007 the two sides will announce several joint projects to further harmonization.

### CHINA, INDIA

Integrating China and India with global air traffic systems is also important for making international air travel safe and trouble-free, she said, as the two countries experience an explosive growth in domestic air travel.

Blakey said the growth of China's domestic air travel market – at about 8 percent per year – is hampered by a lack of sufficient infrastructure and a complex web of airspace restrictions. The Chinese have tried to catch up with the growth by beginning construction of more than 30 major airports in recent years and by pushing their military to relinquish some of the approximately 80 percent of Chinese airspace it controls.

The FAA administrator said her agency is doing as much as possible to help China improve its air traffic systems through technical assistance and training.

The United States also is working with the Chinese to help them understand the benefits of emerging technologies and automated and integrated air traffic systems, Blakey said.

Another U.S. official, Assistant Secretary of Transportation Andrew Steinberg, told USINFO that China, with its relatively undeveloped infrastructure, has an opportunity to jump directly to satellite-based air traffic systems, passing more developed countries that continue to rely on ground-based systems.

Blakey said her agency would like to use the experience it has gained in China to craft an aviation cooperation program with India, another rapidly developing aviation market.

"We are counting on a long-term relationship with India to work with them to grow their aviation system," she said.

Blakey said the first U.S.-India Partnership Summit, scheduled for April 23-25 in New Delhi, will provide an opportunity to discuss the most important issues related to bilateral cooperation such as airport development and construction and air traffic management.

India already has asked for U.S. assistance in implementing more advanced navigation and training for its air controllers. The United States has offered to assist with the certification of India's own satellite-based navigational system.

In March, the two countries are scheduled to begin discussions on a bilateral aviation safety agreement, which would allow the U.S. regulators to accept Indian airworthiness certification on some aviation and aerospace products. The FAA must certify aircraft and aerospace products before they can be used or operated in the United States. Under bilateral agreements with some countries, the agency accepts certifications issued by these countries' authorities.

Additional information ( [http://www.aaae.org/products/\\_600\\_US\\_India\\_Summit\\_2007/welcome.html](http://www.aaae.org/products/_600_US_India_Summit_2007/welcome.html) ) on the U.S.-India Partnership Summit is available on the Web site of the American Association of Airport Executives. ♦

## U.S. Foreign Assistance To Focus on Long-Term Development

By Kathryn McConnell  
USINFO Staff Writer

Washington – The president's budget request for the fiscal year beginning October 1 would focus U.S. foreign aid on the long-term development of countries that govern justly and democratically, invest in education and health care and support poverty reduction and economic progress, says Randall Tobias, director of U.S. foreign assistance.

The United States must focus its aid efforts on developing countries most likely to move towards self-sufficiency, he told the Advisory Committee on Voluntary Foreign Aid (ACVFA) meeting February 21 in Washington.

Tobias said the \$20.3 billion the Bush administration is requesting for foreign aid spending for the next fiscal year (FY08) would target helping individual countries move from depending on foreign aid to eliminating barriers with the goal of making their economies stronger and their governments more effective.

The FY08 request is a 12 percent increase over the fiscal year 2006 enacted level, the last year for which such data are available, he said.

Tobias, who also serves as the administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), said the FY08 foreign aid budget recognizes that global stability and prosperity are linked closely to U.S. security.

The FY08 budget proposal allocates \$4.4 billion for Africa, focused on addressing disease and poverty, representing a fourfold increase in

annual spending on Africa during the Bush administration.

For the Western Hemisphere, it seeks \$1.6 billion for aid for economic growth programs and for developing institutions that support democratic processes.

The request would provide \$6.88 billion for counterterrorism and counternarcotics activities and \$2.12 billion to relieve human suffering and to respond to destabilizing humanitarian disasters.

The proposed budget allocates \$4.5 billion for the President's Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), \$388 million for the President's Malaria Initiative and \$535 million to support equitable access to education and to improve the quality of basic education around the world.

Under the proposal, some countries would receive increased aid while others less compared to current levels of support, but none of the 155 countries currently receiving U.S. aid is proposed to be cut more than 20 percent, Tobias said.

Also that day, James Kunder, USAID's acting deputy administrator, said economic growth in Afghanistan is moving forward at "a brisk pace."

Kunder, who had just returning from Afghanistan, said he attended

the opening of an industrial park housing 35 small factories outside of Kabul, a focal point for job creation. Another such industrial center is expected to open soon in the Kandahar area, he said.



Bolivian women cast votes. The FY08 budget allocates \$1.6 billion for democratic development in the Western Hemisphere. (AP Images)

Kunder said USAID is helping to build Afghanistan's infrastructure so it can attract more investments in other job-creating businesses.

He also said "democracy is thriving" in Afghanistan and that the parliament is "vibrant" with men and women of all ethnic groups discussing issues of importance to the country.

For additional information, see Rebuilding Afghanistan ( [http://usinfo.state.gov/sa/rebuilding\\_afghanistan.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/sa/rebuilding_afghanistan.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>)* ♦

## Musical Comedy on Israeli-Palestinian Conflict Wins Academy Award

By David Shelby  
USINFO Staff Writer

Washington – When University of Southern California film student Ari Sandel set out to make a musical comedy about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, many people warned him that the tragic circumstances in the Middle East are not appropriate material for a comedic venture. But since Sandel's *West Bank Story* premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in 2005, it has played more than 100 festivals on five continents and won 25 prizes. This winning streak was capped February 25 with the award for best live-action short film from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

The academy bestows the most prestigious film awards in the United States, also known as the "Oscars."

"This film is not meant to be a learning tool for the situation in the Middle East. It is not an historical explanation, or a political solution on screen. It is a movie about hope and peace and that is it," Sandel said on the film's Web site.

He said he hoped to counteract the documentaries and news reports about the conflict that present no hope for peace between Israelis and Arabs. He said his goal was to make a film that captured people's attention, made them laugh and offered a message of hope.

The story revolves around two families -- one Israeli and one Palestinian -- that have competing falafel stands in a West Bank town. When the Israeli-owned "Kosher King" installs a new pastry machine that encroaches on the land of the Palestinian-owned "Hummus Hut," the

Palestinians destroy the machine, and the Israelis build a wall between the two restaurants.



UCLA film student Ari Sandel won the award for best live-action short film for "West Bank Story". (AP Images)

In the midst of the tension and animosity, David, an Israeli soldier from the "Kosher King" family, falls in love with Fatima, a cashier at her family's "Hummus Hut." When their love triggers a chain of events that destroys both restaurants, everyone must seek common ground to rebuild.

The original music, written by Israeli composer Yuval Ron, combines Arabic sounds with Jewish Klezmer music and Broadway-style show tunes. The short film includes seven dance routines.

The storyline and musical numbers pay deliberate homage to *West Side Story*, a 1957 Broadway musical, which became a film in 1961, about rival gangs of white and Puerto Rican teenagers in New York City.

The story of a love interest across cultural and ethnic boundaries also finds its roots in William Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*.

Sandel said on the film's Web site that the greatest challenge was maintaining a sense of balance in the film. "Our fear was that we might offend one side and then turn them off to the story. Therefore, we made sure that for every joke against one side we had one for the other. Likewise, for every endearing or heartfelt moment for the Palestinians we had to have one for the Israelis. Balance was crucial to staying credible," he wrote.

He said this balance is important to ensure that viewers from both sides of the conflict feel comfortable enough "to let their guard down and laugh with the characters from the 'other side.'"

Sandel studied Middle East history, Islam and Judaism at college and has traveled extensively in the Middle East. He said his film has been warmly received everywhere it has played, including at the Dubai (United Arab Emirates) International Film Festival, and that he has had requests for copies of the film from across the Middle East.

In accepting the Oscar at the Academy Awards ceremony, Sandel said the award shows how many people support the notion of peace in the Middle East. "I truly believe that peace between Israelis and Arabs will be achieved and don't believe it is a hopeless endeavor," he said.

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

## Women's Rights in the United States

By Jane Morse  
USINFO Staff Writer

In the United States, women's rights have a long, constantly evolving history.

In recent decades, significant steps have been taken to improve education, health, family life, economic opportunities and political empowerment for women. The U.S. experience shows that, as the status of women advances, so does that of their families, their communities, their workplaces and their nation.

In many ways the birth of the women's rights movement in the United States closely tied to the abolitionist movement, which was supported fervently by many American women. It was the exclusion of female abolitionist delegates from the 1840 World Anti-Slavery Convention held in London that inspired Elizabeth Cady Stanton and abolitionist Lucretia Mott to discuss the development of a women's rights movement in the United States.

In the first half of the 19th century, women were not allowed the freedoms men enjoyed in the eyes of the law, the church or the government. Women could not vote, hold elective office, attend college or earn a living. If married, they could not make legal contracts, divorce an abusive husband or gain custody of their children.

In July 1848, Stanton and Mott joined with other like-minded women for the first Women's Rights Convention held in Seneca Falls, New York. Their "Declaration of Sentiments," based on the U.S. Declaration of Independence, demanded equal rights for women, including the right to vote. Over



General Mills manager Kirstie Foster visits her daughter at the company's childcare center. (AP Images)

300 people attended the convention; the document was signed by 68 women and 32 men.

### LEGAL, ECONOMIC PROGRESS

In 1920, with the ratification of the 19th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, that American women finally gained the right to vote. Ultimately, it was economics, rather than politics, that changed women's roles in American society and created greater momentum for the women's rights movement.

As many families moved from farms to cities, the economic role of women diminished. But the Great Depression, which began with the October 1929 stock market crash, compelled more women to seek paid work outside the home in order to aid their families.

World War II catapulted up to 38 percent of American women into the workforce to fill the labor shortage left by men serving as soldiers. After the war, returning soldiers displaced many women, but women re-entered the workforce with the economic expansion of the late 1950s and the 1960s. As women's contributions to their family's economic well-being grew, they found that discrimination increasingly frustrated their efforts to advance in the workplace.

Equal opportunity was offered to women in the 1964 Civil Rights Act, which prohibited sex discrimination in employment. To ensure that the act's provisions for women were enforced, activists joined together to create in 1966 the Na-

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## Women's Rights in the United States . . .

(Continued from page 17)

tional Organization for Women (NOW). NOW is currently the largest organization for feminists in the United States, with some 500,000 members.

By the early 1970s, women serving in both chambers of the U.S. Congress helped focus more attention on the needs of women. Some of the significant pieces of legislation affecting women that were passed into law resulted in:

Greater freedom in reproductive choice (1973);

Minimum wage protection for domestic workers (1974);

Prohibitions against discriminating in employment against pregnant women (1978);

Tougher child support laws and protection of pension rights for widows and divorced women (1984);

Provision of federal funds for child care (1990);

Employment protection for workers needing extended time off to care for family members (1993); and

Protections against violence (1994).

### REMAINING CHALLENGES

American women have made significant gains in the quest for equal opportunity in the nation's economic and political spheres of life, but there are still problems to be overcome.

For example, the U.S. Census Bureau reported that in 2005, women over the age of 16 comprise 59 percent of the workforce, yet, on average, they earned only 77 cents for every \$1 their male counterparts earned. Part of the reason for this might be that women remain clustered in lower-paying occupations, according to the most recent data available from the U.S. Census Bu-

reau.

Another challenge facing working women is how to balance the demands of home and family with that of the workplace. Many women with children and jobs face the conundrum of neglecting one or the other. Some high-achieving women find themselves forgoing families. Sylvia Ann Hewlett, economist and author of several books about professional women, found that 42 percent of corporate women are childless by age 40, but only 14 percent planned to be.

Despite the challenges they still face, American women can be proud of their accomplishments, and National Women's History Month, established by Congress in 1987, is a good time to reflect upon women's progress.

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

## Global Task Force Combats Internet Child-Sex Predators . . .

(Continued from page 12)

### UNDERSTANDING THE BREADTH OF THE PROBLEM

Speakers at the Washington VGT conference emphasized the powerful reach of the Internet. According to Ethel Quayle, director for the COPINE (Combating Paedophile Information Networks in Europe) Project at the University College Cork, Ireland, the Internet serves to "normalize" behavior that previously was not considered normal, such as pedophilia.

Quayle urged parents to make

greater efforts to understanding the Internet and their children's online activities. Adults, she explained, "visit" the Internet; children "live in it."

According to Gamble, groups like the VGT are "recognizing the global dimension of the Internet and delivering a worldwide virtual police presence."

"For the child," Gamble said, "that means they have somewhere to go without being bullied by sex offenders. For parents, that means they have increased peace of mind. For the sex offender, it means be

aware, because the child you may be looking to 'groom' tonight could well be a few clicks away from putting your activities into our hands."

More information (<http://www.virtualglobaltaskforce.com/>) on the Virtual Global Task Force is available on its 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>)* ♦

## Women Increasingly Likely To Be Leaders in U.S. Higher Education

By Carolee Walker  
USINFO Staff Writer

Washington – Harvard University's selection of a woman as its new president is part of a trend in U.S. higher education to open its leadership posts to women.

More women than ever attend universities, and slating women for leadership positions in higher education is a natural outgrowth of this pattern, says Catherine Hill, director of research at the American Association of University Women (AAUW).

According to published reports, more females than males apply to U.S. universities, and 56 percent of undergraduates are female. Women's progress has not been achieved at the expense of men because more men are attending two- and four-year academic institutions than ever before, said Hill.

The U.S. Census Bureau predicts that by 2010, some 7.76 million males and 10.72 million females will be enrolled in post-secondary institutions, representing increasing numbers for both men and women. Enrollment figures for 2006 were 7.458 million males and 10.19 million females.

"Diversity in higher education is important because it provides new ways of looking at age-old problems and welcomes different approaches to scholarship," according to Hill. Also, opening the doors to women as students and leaders is important because it is widely recognized in American culture that higher education holds the keys to economic and political success, Hill said.

"Academia in America is the gatekeeper for many opportunities in

this country," Hill said. "Who gets to decide when the gate opens and what kind of intellectual work gets done will determine how and which young people can move ahead and become decisionmakers."



Drew Gilpin Faust speaks to reporters after being introduced as the 28th president of Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts February 11, 2007. (Adam Hunger/Reuters)

Hill said such high-level appointments in academia mean women are positioned better to pursue careers and obtain well-paying jobs, especially in fields traditionally dominated by men.

Harvard University announced on February 11 the appointment of Drew Gilpin Faust, a history professor and founding dean of the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, as its next president. A study released February 12 by the American Council on Education (ACE) shows the rate of diversification in the university president's office has been

slowly but steadily increasing. Hill said the appointment of Faust to lead Harvard is "symbolically important."

"In academe, there's no greater symbol than president of Harvard," Nancy Hopkins, a biology professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), said in published reports. "It sends a very powerful message." MIT is led by Susan Hockfield, its first woman president.

Faust is a strong leader who is interested in women's studies, according to Hill, and her "pivotal position at such a well-known institution will become a podium to shape public debate."

Founded in 1636, Harvard is the oldest institution of higher education in the United States and a worldwide leader in education and research. Seven U.S. presidents were graduates of Harvard, and 43 current and former Harvard faculty members are Nobel laureates. Radcliffe College, an all-female school closely affiliated with Harvard University, officially merged with Harvard in 1999.

"This is a great day, and a historic day, for Harvard," said James R. Houghton, the senior member of the Harvard Corporation and chair of the presidential search committee that for the first time in Harvard's history welcomed student input. Faust "combines a powerful, broad-ranging intellect with a demonstrated capacity for strong leadership and a talent for stimulating people to do their best work, both individually and together," Houghton said.

Three other "Ivy League" institu-

*(Continued on page 21)*

## U.S. Women Making Strides in Education, Entrepreneurship

American women -- 152 million or 51 percent of the U.S. population -- increasingly are making their influence felt in all spheres of American life. And the month of March -- National Women's History Month -- is a fitting time to measure the progress women are making in American society.

Recognizing that education is their ticket to economic success, women now graduate high school at rates higher than those of men -- 87 percent for women; 85 percent for men. In the age range of 25 to 29 years, 32 percent of women compared to 25 percent of men obtained bachelor's degrees or higher in 2005. On the other hand, a higher proportion of males in the general population had a bachelor's degree or higher (28.9 percent compared with 26.5 percent of women).

About 59 percent of women 16 or older participated in the labor force in 2005. Of these, 37 percent worked in management, professional and related occupations. The median annual earnings of women 16 or older who worked year-round, full time, in 2005 was \$32,168, according to figures provided by the U.S. Census Bureau.

Some 21.1 million women work in educational services, health care and social assistance industries. About 37 percent of women work in management, professional and related occupations.

Nonetheless, on average, women continue to earn only 77 cents for every \$1 earned by men. Even so, in 17 percent of married couples, the wife earned at least \$5,000 more than the husband in 2005. Among 22 percent of married couples, the wife has more education than the husband.



Cathy L. Lanier is poised to make history as Washington's first permanent female police chief. (AP Images)

In 2005, some 63 million American women were married; and 55 million were widowed, divorced or never married. More than 82 million American women are mothers -- only 5.6 million are "stay-at-home" mothers.

The number of women-owned businesses -- 6.5 million -- has increased by 20 percent between 1997 and 2002 and their revenues jumped 15 percent in the same time frame. There were 7,231 women-owned firms with 100 or more employees, generating \$274 billion in gross receipts in 2002. Nearly one in three women-owned firms operated in health care and social assistance, and other services such as personal services, and repair and maintenance.

Although their numbers are still relatively small, more women are serving in the U.S. military. In 2005, some 203,000 women were on active duty, representing 15 percent of the armed forces. Nearly 35,000 women serve as officers.

More U.S. women citizens than men (65 percent to 62 percent) reported voting in the 2004 presidential elections.

Women are reversing the "gender gap" for computer use that was exhibited in the 1980s and 1990s. In 2003, more women (by 2 percentage points) than men used a computer at home.

In the last 30 years, girls have more than doubled their numbers in high school athletic programs. In the 2004-2005 school year, there were 2.9 million girls participating in school athletic programs compared to only 1.3 million girls in the 1973-1974 school year.

In 2006, according to Census Bureau statistics, more women than men (57 percent to 37 percent)



Sennheiser employee Antoinette Lucero inspects circuit boards at her work station in Albuquerque, New Mexico. (AP Images)

could be found working in their gardens, doing charity work (32 percent versus 26 percent) and reading literature (55 percent versus 38 percent).

For more information, see the IIP Web site National Women's History Month ( [http://usinfo.state.gov/scv/history\\_geography\\_and\\_population/population\\_and\\_diversity/women\\_in\\_the\\_us/womens\\_history\\_month.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/scv/history_geography_and_population/population_and_diversity/women_in_the_us/womens_history_month.html)) title= "http://usinfo.state.gov/scv/history\_geography\_and\_population/population\_and\_diversity/women\_in\_the\_us/womens\_history\_month.html" )

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PUBLIC AFFAIRS  
SECTION  
AMERICAN EMBASSY

P.O.Box 1014  
Addis Ababa  
Ethiopia

Phone: 251-1-174007  
251-1-174000  
Fax: 251-1-242454  
Email: pasaddis@state.gov



## Scholar Proposes International Law as Norm To Assess Elections . . .

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to justify their decisions based on evidence collected over the course of assessment exercises.

Carroll described Boda's work as a vitally important effort to improve election-assessment methodology, but said that improvements will be difficult to achieve. Boda is "taking us in the right direction. These hard questions must be asked," Carroll said.

Merloe said each election has its own context, and that an election held in a post-conflict society is very different from one held in a peaceful, well-established civic culture.

"My advice is in favor of international law," Merloe said, agreeing with Boda. "There ought to be an international law basis for any intervention," and it should include inter-related concepts of human rights law as well, he said.

For an additional view of the concept of free and fair elections, see Democracy Dialogues ( [http://usinfo.state.gov/dd/eng\\_democracy\\_dialogues/elections/elections\\_essay.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/dd/eng_democracy_dialogues/elections/elections_essay.html) ).

Additional information ( <http://www.ned.org/> ) about the National Endowment for Democracy is available on the organization's Web site.

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## Women Increasingly Likely To Be Leaders in U.S. Higher Education . . .

*(Continued from page 19)*

tions -- Brown University, Princeton University and the University of Pennsylvania -- now have women presidents. The eight private colleges and universities in the Ivy League are considered among the most prestigious of all higher education institutions in the United States.

According to the 2006 ACE study, 23 percent of college presidents were women. "While that percentage has increased from 9.5 percent in 1986, it is clear that women are still underrepresented in this realm of academia," AAUW said in a press release.

Yet because more than half of all U.S. university presidents in 2006 were older than 60, compared with 14 percent in 1986, the future for women's leadership in academia is considered promising. "A potential wave of retirements means there is an opportunity to create greater diversity in the [university] presidency," said Jacqueline E. King, director of the ACE's Center for Policy Analysis.

The full text ( <http://www.news.harvard.edu/gazette/2007/02.15/99-president.html> ) of a press release announcing Faust's appointment is available on the Harvard University Web site. The full text ( [http://www.acenet.edu/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Press\\_Releases2&CONTENTID](http://www.acenet.edu/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Press_Releases2&CONTENTID)

= 20419&TEMPLATE=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm ) of the 2006 university presidential study is available on the ACE Web site.

For additional information about education in the United States, see Study in the U.S ( [http://usinfo.state.gov/scv/life\\_and\\_culture/education/study\\_in\\_the\\_us.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/scv/life_and_culture/education/study_in_the_us.html) ).

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