



# Weekly Special Report



Produced by the Public Affairs Section

## INSIDE

## Free Societies Must Support Press Freedom, Rice Says

By Alexandra Abboud  
Washington File Staff  
Writer

Washington – May 3 marks World Press Freedom Day, a day on which free societies celebrate the importance of free press to civil society and evaluate the state of press freedom around the world.

The day also serves as a reminder to governments to respect their commitments to uphold the fundamental rights of journalists and their pub-

lic audience's right to be informed about the state of their countries and the world.

"As the United States celebrates World Press Freedom Day, we hail the courageous sacrifices made by journalists around the world to report the facts, even at the cost of their lives and their freedom," said Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice in a May 3 statement.

The United Nations General Assembly pro-



### World Press Freedom Day



claimed May 3 as World Press Freedom Day in 1993 as a reminder to the world that in many countries the independence of the media is threatened by government censorship of

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## Preventing Early Marriages

Early marriage is one of several traditions harmful toward women that are commonly practiced in some regions of Ethiopia. In the Amhara region, 50 percent of girls are married by age 15. Parents often consent to a daughter's consummated marriage when she is as young as 10 or 12 years old, despite the legal marriage age of 18. Early

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**Yeshi Alem educates her village about the perils of making girls marry young**

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## Free Societies Must Support Press Freedom, Rice Says . . .

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newspapers and other media, and in some cases, the lives of journalists are threatened as they work to bring light to issues of public importance.

In many countries, press freedom continues to be curtailed by strict libel laws, the lack of an independent media, and the restriction of Internet search engines, Rice said.

In China, Zimbabwe and Iran, journalists continue to be imprisoned and harassed, while in Venezuela, legal limitations imposed on journalists, combined with physical intimidations, have resulted in "a climate of self-censorship," she said. In Russia, media independence also continues to weaken, especially among major television networks.

"Every day brave men and women risk harassment, beatings, detention, imprisonment and even death simply for seeking to share the truth with others around the world," Rice said.

### FREE INSTITUTIONS

The task of supporting independent media is complex and can vary depending on the reality of life in particular areas. The strongest impediments to independent media are in countries "where there is an absence of mature, civil institutions -- such as a well-functioning court system, and a governmental framework that is free of corruption," according to Stanford University professor William Woo, an expert on journalism ethics.

"It's hard to develop independent media without complementary institutions," Woo said in a 2005

interview. For this reason, he added, support for independent media is necessarily connected to broader efforts to support democracy, the rule of law and human rights. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/dhr/Archive/2005/May/03-979985.html>).

Many governments and civil society organizations around the world work throughout the year to promote the values celebrated on World Press Freedom Day.

### THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) is one of several organizations in the United States dedicated to press freedom and the protection of journalists worldwide. Founded by U.S. foreign correspondents in response to the treatment of their foreign colleagues by authoritarian governments and others seeking to curb freedom of the press, CPJ operates in more than 120 countries worldwide.

In an interview with the Washington File, Abi Wright, CPJ's communications director, said the status of press freedom around the world has been affected greatly by both the emergence of new media, including the Internet, and by recent events such as the war in Iraq.

Today, CPJ is "focused very much on the Internet and the impact that it has had on freedom of expression, writers and journalists around the world in countries like China, Vietnam and Cuba," said Wright. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/dhr/Archive/2006/Apr/12-842034.html>).

For example, the organization issues news alerts calling for the release of jailed Internet bloggers, and its staff members have testified before Congress against various forms of state censorship on the Internet. In 2005, CPJ documented Internet censorship in 22 countries.

According to CPJ, current conflicts also have affected the safety of journalists around the world. "The state of press freedom is linked to current events," said Wright. "When there's a crackdown in a country like Nepal [where 200 journalists recently were jailed], and when there's war in a place like Iraq, it takes a toll on local journalists."

However, attacks on the press are more widely documented today, said Wright, due in part to organizations like CPJ, which is celebrating its 25th anniversary.

"Our work has had an impact in terms of raising the profile of attacks on journalists, bringing those attacks to the attention of governments and officials, and calling for justice," she said. "There is more activism and advocacy taking place, which has had an impact."

### U.S. SUPPORT FOR PRESS FREEDOM

In the United States, press freedom is protected by the U.S. Constitution's First Amendment. Over the years, the scope of that protection has been expanded and defined by various U.S. Supreme Court cases. (See related article ([http://usinfo.state.gov/dd/democracy\\_dialogues/](http://usinfo.state.gov/dd/democracy_dialogues/)).

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## Preventing Early Marriages . . .

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marriage puts girls at risk of serious health consequences, including increased vulnerability to HIV/AIDS and obstetric problems due to immature bodies and undernourishment. Also, early childbearing has been shown to both increase a women's vulnerability to poverty and decrease her chances of completing her education.

In response, USAID helped fund a program to discourage early marriages through advocacy and education. Using community and legal interventions, the program engages religious leaders and teachers and hosts public forums for

discussion and sensitization on the harmful effects of early marriage. The country's two main religious bodies, the Ethiopian Orthodox Church and the Ethiopian Islamic Affairs Supreme Council, signed statements of action condemning early marriage and outlining punishments for such offenses.

"When girls are married at a young age they get hurt because their bodies have not matured yet," said a Muslim leader at an advocacy session. "We as religious leaders should be serious about this."

One example of the program's success is Yeshi Alem. As an active member of her community's early

marriage committee, a mechanism set up to address the issue, and a representative of a women's association in Kemissie village, she has helped prevent more than 300 early marriages in her community. "I teach from experience. I know the hardships of raising many children," Yeshi says. "My husband now sees the benefits of what I started eight years ago, even though he wasn't convinced of it then." ♦

## Free Societies Must Support Press Freedom, Rice Says . . .

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[freedom\\_speech/free\\_speech\\_essay-1.html](#).)

The U.S. government supports press freedom worldwide through a number of programs, some administered in part by the U.S. Department of State.

The State Department's Bureau of International Information Programs, for example, manages the U.S. Speaker and Specialist Program, which sends experts overseas to speak about a variety of issues, including freedom of the press. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/dhr/Archive/2006/Mar/28-443266.html>.)

Other programs bring foreign journalists to the United States to

meet with their counterparts and observe journalistic practices. In April, the State Department announced the formation of the Edward R. Murrow Journalism Program, a public-private partnership that enables foreign journalists to study and examine U.S. journalistic practices. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/dhr/Archive/2006/Apr/24-297546.html>.)

On May 3, Rice said that the United States will continue to advocate greater press freedom around the world, but all free societies must pressure restrictive governments to allow for an open press. "Independent media empowers people, exposes corruption, encourages transparency and prompts participation in the politi-

cal process," she said. "Without it, society as a whole suffers."

The full text (<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2006/65792.htm>) of Rice's statement on World Press Freedom Day is available on the State Department Web site.

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)).

*(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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## OPIC Approves \$50 Million for New Africa Investment Fund

Washington -- The board of directors of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) April 27 approved \$50 million in financing to support the establishment of a new private equity investment fund that could ultimately invest as much as \$200 million in growing businesses throughout sub-Saharan Africa.



The OPIC loan will support the Sub-Saharan Africa Fund, whose investment strategy will center on the development of high-growth-potential startup opportunities, as well as larger buyout opportunities, according to an OPIC press release.

The fund will focus on the West African region, with an emphasis on Nigeria, and also on opportunities within countries of the Southern African Development Community. The fund has a target capitalization of \$200 million.

The fund manager, Helios Investment Partners, will institutionalize the businesses in which it invests by recruiting high-level management talent, developing financial controls and spearheading strate-

gies for entry into other African markets.

The fund is expected to generate more than \$12 million in annual tax revenue for host-country governments, as well as 1,800 permanent local jobs and more than \$800 million in procurement in host countries.

Helios also was selected in 2004 to manage the sub-Saharan portfolio of the OPIC-supported Modern Africa Growth Fund, along with Baring Private Equity Partners.

OPIC was established as an agency of the U.S. government in 1971 to help U.S. businesses invest overseas, foster economic development in new and emerging markets, complement the private

sector in managing risks associated with foreign direct investment and support U.S. foreign policy. Because it charges market-based fees for its products, it operates on a self-sustaining basis at no net cost to U.S. taxpayers.

OPIC's political risk insurance and financing help U.S. businesses of all sizes invest in more than 150 emerging markets and developing nations worldwide. Over the agency's 33-year history, it has supported \$164 billion worth of investments that have helped developing countries generate more than 732,000 host-country jobs and \$13 billion in host-government revenues.

For additional information on U.S. policies in Africa, see Trade and Economic Development ([http://usinfo.state.gov/af/africa/trade\\_economic\\_development.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/af/africa/trade_economic_development.html)).

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

## U.S. Senator Does a "Slam Dunk" for Africa Malaria Day

U.S. Senator Does a "Slam Dunk" for Africa Malaria Day

By Jim Fisher-Thompson  
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- Because a citizen of Kansas invented basketball, it was only fitting that Kansas Senator Sam Brownback would drive home his concern with health issues in Africa by participating in a "Dunk Malaria" event in his office

on Africa Malaria Day.

New York businessman Lance Laifer brought a small basketball net and ball to the senator's Capitol Hill office April 25 for Brownback to shoot a symbolic basket, helping to mark Africa Malaria Day and to showcase the businessman's efforts to battle the disease, which kills at least 1 million people a year worldwide, according to the World Health Organization -- 80

percent of them in sub-Saharan Africa.

Laifer said the basketball net was symbolic of bednets, which he said are "one arrow that we have in our anti-malaria quiver." The bednets are treated with insecticides to suppress mosquitoes, which are vectors of the disease.

Laifer, who is president of Laifer

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## Americans Demonstrating for Peace in Darfur Commended

By Charles W. Corey  
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- As many Americans gathered in Washington and nationwide April 30 to express their concern over the tragedy in Sudan's Darfur region, Deputy Secretary of State Robert Zoellick said those people who want a solution to that crisis should be commended.

"With their support and encouragement, the United States will continue to do everything it can to reduce the suffering and violence in Darfur," Zoellick said in a statement issued on the same day as those demonstrations.

"The United States," he pledged, "will continue to play a leading role diplomatically, work to improve security and to provide humanitarian aid, and press to strengthen the AU [African Union] peacekeepers in Darfur and to transition the peacekeeping to a UN force." Peace must be achieved in Darfur, he said.

Abuja negotiators must keep their eye on the vital goal -- achieving peace in Darfur so that Darfurians can return to their homes and live African Union peacekeeping mission in Darfur.

The U.S. Agency for International



**Demonstrators hold up signs during a demonstration outside the Sudanese Embassy in protest of the Sudanese government's role in atrocities in the Darfur region, Friday, April 28, 2006 in Washington. (AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)**

Development (USAID) is expanding its mission in Sudan, and a new mission director, Katherine Almquist, recently was appointed to head offices in Khartoum and Juba, in the South. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/af/Archive/2006/Apr/21-988064.html>.)

For additional information on U.S. policy, see Darfur Humanitarian Emergency (<http://usinfo.state.gov/af/africa/darfur.html>).

in a secure peace that offers hope. Much good work has been done, and should not be allowed to slip away.

Since the crisis in Darfur heated up in early 2003, the U.S. government has provided \$1.9 billion in overall humanitarian and development assistance to Sudan and \$638 million for humanitarian assistance to Darfur. In 2005, another \$150 million went to the

The full text (<http://www.state.gov/s/d/rem/2006/65498.htm>) of Zoellick's statement is available on the State Department 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. Lawmaker, Officials Pledge More Aid for Ugandan Children

By Jim Fisher-Thompson  
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- Members of Congress as well as top government officials pledged to increase efforts to help child victims of a vicious insurgency that has wracked northern Uganda for 20 years.

During an April 26 hearing by the House Subcommittee on Africa, Global Human Rights and International Operations, Chairman Chris Smith (Republican of New Jersey) told a standing-room-only audience -- including Ugandan Ambassador Perezi Kamunanwire -- that not enough is being done to safeguard the endangered children of northern Uganda, who are being abducted from their homes on a systematic basis by a movement called the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA).

"With all the attention given to the genocide in Darfur, a similar crisis in northern Uganda has been eclipsed in both attention and resources. If the eyes and ears of the world are focused elsewhere, we must redirect them to Uganda's distressed northern population -- especially the children," Smith said.

According to Smith, since the LRA began its depredations, as many as 2 million people, about 90 percent of the total population of the Acholi area in the North, has been "forced into internally displaced persons [IDP] camps" and "more than 20,000 children have been forced to serve as either soldiers or sexual slaves for the LRA."

A child survivor, Grace Akallo, who now is a college student in Boston, recounted to the subcommittee her ordeal, which began with her abduction, along with 139 other girls, in 1996. Akallo, who was a 15-year-old schoolgirl, and the others were used as slave labor by the LRA and Sudanese government soldiers. "We were forcibly given to senior LRA commanders as so-called wives," she said.



Grace Akallo

She told a rapt audience that she finally managed to escape, but said, "Five of my classmates died in captivity."

Others, Akallo said, "gradually managed to escape over the past 10 years; some are infected with HIV/AIDS; many of them have children by the commanders who

abused them. Ten years later, two of my friends are still held hostage by the LRA."

Smith said Congress plans to challenge the use of child soldiers soon with legislation involving sanctions. He said the legislation "would deny U.S. military assistance to seven of the 26 nations believed to use children in their military forces: Burundi, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Paraguay, Sudan and Uganda."

Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor Jeffrey Krilla told the subcommittee that the issue of abducted children in Uganda has

"understandably struck a chord with the American people."

The United States is "a leading source of humanitarian and other aid for the people of northern Uganda, and we provided \$78 million in bilateral assistance" in 2005, he said.

Krilla, a former democracy and Africa specialist with the International Republican Institute, was making his first appearance before Congress since being named to his new position several months ago.

Having met recently with the Ugandan ambassador and U.S. Ambassador to Uganda Steven Browning, Krilla said, "I look forward to close cooperation with them as we work to improve the security and living conditions for the people of northern Uganda."

Krilla said he plans to travel to northern Uganda this summer for meetings on "the regional dimensions of the LRA threat" and what the international community can do to improve the situation in northern Uganda.

Deputy Assistant Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Leonard Rogers said, "Northern Uganda remains one of the world's least-publicized humanitarian emergencies."

In addition to the \$78 million in assistance Krilla cited, Rogers said, USAID also provided 79,000 metric tons of vitally needed food aid for northern IDPs in 2005, valued at \$47 million. In the same year, USAID also shifted \$11.8 million for food storage and health programs in the Acholi region. ♦

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## Bush Names Journalist Tony Snow as New Press Secretary

By Stephen Kaufman  
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- President Bush announced that television and radio host Tony Snow is his choice for the next White House press secretary, replacing Scott McClellan.

The president told reporters April 26 that Snow "understands like I understand that the press is vital to our democracy."

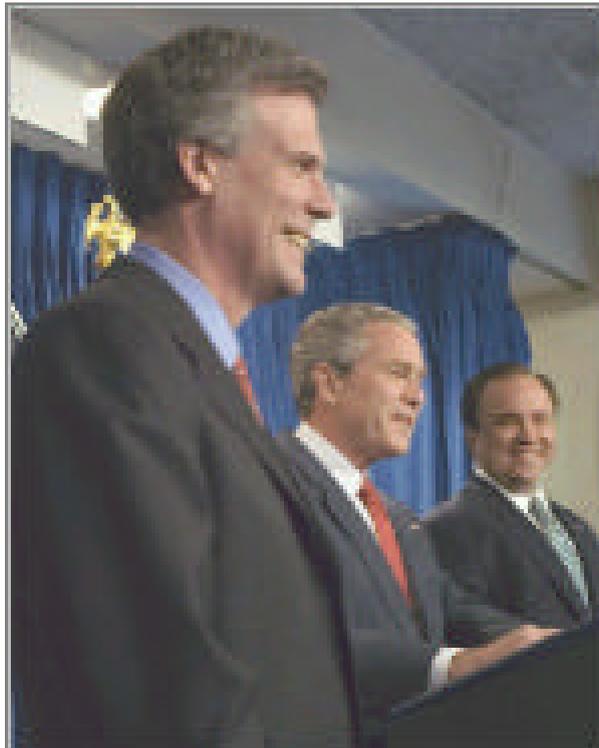
In remarks at the White House, the president said Snow will "make an outstanding addition" to his staff, and, as a professional journalist himself, Snow "understands the importance of the relationship between government and those whose job it is to cover the government."

Snow has spent 25 years in journalism in all three of its major media -- print, radio, and television -- and is currently the host of "The Tony Snow Show" on Fox News Radio, and "Weekend Live with Tony Snow" on the Fox News Channel.

Bush said Snow can help explain the administration's decisions to the press and to the American people.

"He's going to work hard to provide you with timely information about my philosophy, my priorities, and the actions we're taking to implement our agenda," the president said.

Snow has also served in the White House under former president George H.W. Bush in 1991 as his director of speechwriting and deputy assistant to the president



**President George W. Bush and outgoing Press Secretary Scott McClellan introduces the new White House Press Secretary, Tony Snow, to the press in the James S. Brady Press Briefing Room Wednesday, April 26, 2006. White House photo by Eric Draper**

for media affairs. Bush said Snow also has taught children in Kenya.

"I like his perspective, I like the perspective he brings to this job, and I think you're going to like it, too," he said.

Paying tribute to outgoing press secretary Scott McClellan, the president said their relationship ex-

tends back to his days as governor of Texas. "We traveled our state together, we traveled our country together, and we have traveled the world together. We have also made history together," he said, adding that McClellan "should be enormously proud of his service to our nation in an incredibly difficult job."

Tony Snow thanked the president and told reporters he is taking the job "not only because I believe in the President, [but also] because believe it or not, I want to work with you."

"These are times that are going to be very challenging. We've got a lot of big issues ahead, and we've got a lot of important things that all of us are going to be covering together," he said.

The transcript (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2006/04/20060426.html>) of President Bush and Tony Snow's remarks is available on the White House 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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## African Cooperation Growing on Anti-Terrorism, U.S. Report Says

By Jim Fisher-Thompson  
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- No longer quite the "breeding ground" for terrorism that a former assistant secretary of state for Africa described to Congress several years ago, Africa is gaining ground on the problem in partnership with allies like the United States, says the State Department's annual counterterrorism report, released April 28.

Africa continues to be home to groups that seek to violently undermine regional political and economic stability, but in the past year there were "few significant international terrorist incidents in Africa," and "many African governments improved their cooperation and strengthened their efforts in the war on terrorism," according to the Country Reports on Terrorism 2005.

"Both the African Union (AU) and African regional organizations undertook initiatives to improve counterterrorism cooperation and information sharing," according to the report.

An example of growing cooperation is Djibouti, it said, which hosted the only U.S. military base in sub-Saharan Africa, along with forces from other coalition nations, and staunchly supported counterterrorism efforts.

"President Ismail Omar Guelleh and many top leaders in Djibouti repeatedly expressed their country's full and unqualified support for the global war on terror" and were responsive to all U.S. requests, the report said.

On the down side, "a small num-

ber of al-Qaida operatives in East Africa, particularly Somalia, continued to pose the most serious threat to American and allied interests in the region," the report said. Regional efforts to restore peace and stability in Somalia are ongoing. Although the ability of Somali local and regional authorities to carry out counterterrorism activities is constrained, some have taken limited actions in this direction."

In West and Central Africa it is less clear how extensively terrorist groups are entrenched, although fund-raising, terrorist recruiting and other support activities for al-Qaida and its affiliates in South Africa and Nigeria and across the trans-Sahara region remain a serious concern, according to the report.

The latter threat is being addressed by a multimillion-dollar partnership between the U.S. Defense Department (DOD) and 10 Sahelian nations called the Trans-Saharan Counterterrorism Initiative. The object is to train local forces and provide equipment to facilitate cooperation in confronting terrorist organizations in the region.

The initiative will emphasize "preserving the traditional tolerance and moderation displayed in most African Muslim communities and countering the development of extremism, particularly in youth and rural populations."

The report also mentions support to the African Union (AU) as important to U.S. anti-terrorism efforts.

The Defense Department, through its European Command,

helped establish the AU's Algiers-based African Center for Study and Research on Terrorism in October 2004, and its operations have been expanded. In addition, the Department of State and the National Defense University's Africa Center for Strategic Studies collaborated with the AU to run counterterrorism workshops during the past year.

### OTHER AREAS OF COOPERATION

Ethiopia has "devoted high-level attention to the fight against terrorism" and "agreed to a number of new initiatives and continued to cooperate in efforts to collect and share intelligence on terrorist groups."

In addition, U.S. Army Special Forces and the Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa "continued to provide training to enhance Ethiopian border patrol and security skills" while the Ethiopian government "enhanced physical security, conducted investigations and provided protective surveillance in response to threat information directed at U.S. citizens."

In Kenya, the government has continued to cooperate with the United States in identifying terrorist groups operating within the country. More work remains to be done, however, in domestic areas such as law enforcement, enacting counterterrorism legislation and prosecuting alleged terror suspects.

Government officials in Madagascar were willing to cooperate with the United States, although limited equipment, personnel and training

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## U.S. Continues To Press for Robust WTO Negotiation Results

The following op-ed by U.S. Trade Representative Rob Portman and Deputy U.S. Trade Representative Susan Schwab was published in the May 1 edition of The Wall Street Journal. There are no republication restrictions.

(begin byliner)

Free Trade Vision

By Rob Portman and Susan Schwab

1 May 2006

The Wall Street Journal

As expected, the World Trade Organization Doha talks have missed another deadline, this one to establish the framework for reducing trade barriers on goods -- from corn to computers. The U.S. remains committed to finding ways to bridge differences between WTO members, and that

is why we're in Geneva this week. We find that most countries share our desire for an ambitious result across the board. Most also agree



**Rob Portman, U.S. Trade Representative**

the start of the Doha Round four-and-a-half years ago, the U.S. remains committed to an ambitious and comprehensive multilateral agreement to expand trade and

this is a once-in-a-generation chance to reduce trade barriers and raise living standards, and we cannot allow it to slip away.

As has been the case from

promote development. We do not think WTO members should settle for half measures -- or "Doha Lite," as some have called it.

The stakes are high for all WTO member countries, large and small, no matter what their stage of development. Developed countries like France, the U.S., Japan and Germany will benefit by being able to sell their products and services in more markets. A study by the University of Michigan estimated that with the total elimination of trade barriers Europe's annual GDP would increase by 6.3%, Japan's by 6.2% and America's by 5.5%. The potential gains are even greater for developing countries. The World Bank estimates that full liberalization would boost the incomes of developing countries,

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## African Cooperation Growing on Anti-Terrorism, U.S. Report Says . . .

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for border control increased the risks of terrorist penetration. "At the main port in Tamatave, which handles 80 percent of Madagascar's maritime traffic, steps were taken to improve access control and overall security."

Mali worked hard to combat terrorism and was "responsive on terrorist finance issues." The government regularly distributed terrorist finance watch lists to the banking system, but has not discovered or frozen any terrorist assets to date, according to the report. The Malian government was receptive to U.S. assistance in strengthening control of its borders and countering the presence of the Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat in northern Mali.

Nigeria took "a leading counterterrorism role in West Africa." Its security services are proactive in investigating potential threats to U.S. interests and have worked to improve intelligence sharing on counterterrorism issues, and the Nigerian military worked to establish units with counterterrorism capability, according to the report.

Most important, "Nigeria consistently lent diplomatic support to Coalition efforts against the Taliban and al-Qaida, despite the domestic political ramifications in a country that is home to Africa's largest Muslim population."

South Africa's President Thabo Mbeki said on several occasions that "no circumstances whatsoever can ever justify resorting to

terrorism." Parliamentarians from all political parties, including Muslim legislators, have echoed Mbeki's sentiments. The report could not gauge the presence of terrorist groups in South Africa, but said many analysts believe al-Qaida and other extremist groups are present in the country's generally moderate Muslim community for fund-raising and other support activities, although "the South African government did not extend diplomatic recognition or provide any material assistance to terrorists."

Uganda had "a strong regional voice in opposing international terrorism and supported U.S. counterterrorism initiatives." The Bank of Uganda has the power to freeze

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## Representatives from 91 Nations Address Counterterror Challenges

By Jacquelyn S. Porth  
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington – Representatives from 91 countries concluded a multilateral planning conference that a U.S. military official says addressed some of the toughest issues of counterterrorism -- including exercising control over un-governed areas, enforcing border security and sharing intelligence.

Air Force Lieutenant General Victor Renuart, the Joint Chiefs' director for strategic plans and policy, told reporters at the Pentagon April 27 that 230 participants from around the world listened to presentations by Colombia, Malaysia, Egypt, Jordan and the United Kingdom about frustrations and lessons drawn from their own counterterror experiences.

The Multilateral Planners Conference, co-hosted by Jordan and the United States, was the fourth in a series on the global war against terrorism. Renuart said all of the participants were forthcoming in sharing insights during the two-day session held at the National Defense University in Washington, especially on the problem of controlling activities in ungoverned regions of the world including the vast frontier of cyberspace.

Of particular concern was finding a way to describe the struggle against terrorism in a nonantagonistic way, he said. Many participants urged their colleagues to use more sensitive descriptions of the counterterror campaign so as not to alienate the vast majority of moderate Muslims who do not condone violence, Renuart added.

He said Muslims attending the

conference wanted to convey that Islam is a religion of compassion and understanding and that those who perpetrate terror in the name of Islam have subverted its basic tenets.

Senior military planners from individual nations and NATO attended, as well as civilian leaders with the U.S. departments of Defense and State, the U.S. Agency for International Development, the Inter-American Development Bank, and the United Nations. Renuart said the United States sought to

emphasize that long-term success against terrorism requires a broad, well-trained and well-equipped coalition.

Participants also described problems faced trying to control illicit trade, smuggling, piracy and drug trafficking -- all of which can be used to serve terrorist networks. Renuart said the problem of stemming the flow of guns, drugs and people in the Trans-Sahel area was raised as a particular concern.

Conference delegates talked about how they might handle piracy problems in the Horn of Africa. The briefing official said they discussed questions such as:

How do you build a coalition to address this problem?

What are the legal implications

of pirates trying to seek sanctuary in the territorial waters of a sovereign nation?

What international accords should be signed to prevent attacks on commerce and trade?

How do you build up the military capacity of nations who want to combat such threats, independently?

Conference attendees also expressed concerns about the prospect of a nuclear-equipped Iran, according to Renuart, but did not focus on Iran's support for terrorist organizations.



**Air Force Lieutenant General  
Victor Renuart**

He said the group was unable to build consensus around the definition of terrorism as had been hoped, but instead argued -- as an example -- about whether Maoist fighters in Nepal should be identified as rebels, insurgents or terrorists. Renuart said conference attendees will return home to consider the definitional problem further and provide feedback in future bilateral meetings with U.S. officials or through ongoing consultations with the Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies and the African Center for Strategic Studies.

Renuart also said there was general agreement that defeating an internal political struggle that evolves into a movement employing terrorist tactics -- as in Malaysia -- can take as long as long as 20 years to 40 years. ♦

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## John Kenneth Galbraith Dead at 97

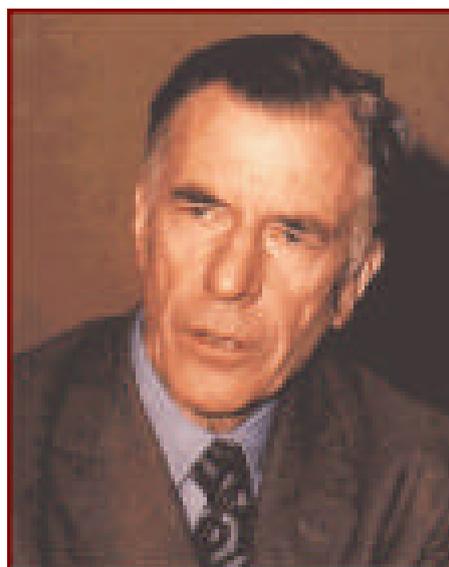
By Michael Jay Friedman  
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- John Kenneth Galbraith, the public intellectual whose career transcended his formal training as an economist to encompass the worlds of politics, diplomacy and social analysis, died April 29 in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He was 97.

Drawing on insights of the British economist John Maynard Keynes and the American sociologist Thorstein Veblen, Galbraith enunciated a broad vision of the relationships between government, labor and business in the modern economy. His challenge to the assumed link between increasing material production and social health anticipated the work of the Nobel laureate Amartya Sen and the "post-materialist" school of economic thought.

John Kenneth Galbraith was born October 15, 1908, in Ontario, Canada. After earning a doctorate in agricultural economics from the

University of California, Berkeley, Galbraith in 1934 joined the economics department at Harvard University, an affiliation he would



John Kenneth Galbraith

maintain for much of his professional life. He became a U.S. citizen in 1937.

Like many academics of his generation, Galbraith served as an administrator in President Franklin D.

Roosevelt's New Deal. He emerged as a key figure at the Office of Price Administration, which regulated the prices of many goods during World War II. The position inevitably made Galbraith many enemies; in 1943, he accepted an editor position at *Fortune*, a leading business magazine.

Among Galbraith's contributions to *Fortune* were articles explaining what came to be known as Keynesian economics. Keynes had argued that high unemployment reflected insufficient "demand," defined by Keynes as the sum of consumer expenditures, private investment and government spending. During hard times, when consumers and businesses could not spend or invest sufficiently, Keynes argued that increased government spending was necessary to increase demand and reduce unemployment. At *Fortune*, Galbraith honed an ability to explain these concepts to a general readership, a talent that would anchor much of his subsequent career. ♦

## Nations Face Massive Teacher Shortages, U.N. Report Finds

By Judy Aita  
Washington File United Nations  
Correspondent

United Nations -- Massive teacher shortages are looming over developing nations, threatening to undermine efforts to provide every child with a quality primary education by 2015, according to a new report released April 25 by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

The report, entitled *Teachers and*

*Educational Quality: Monitoring Global Needs for 2015*, says that the greatest challenge lies in sub-Saharan Africa, where UNESCO estimated that the region will need 2.4 to 4 million teachers over the next 10 years. Shortages are also expected in the Arab States and South and West Asia.

Over the next 10 years 18 million new teachers will be needed worldwide, according to UNESCO.

Peter Smith, UNESCO assistant director general for education, said

that the report provides the basis for a fundamental examination of what is needed for educating children, education policy, and financing in the developing world.

At a press conference at U.N. headquarters, Smith was critical of the efforts being made to finance education. He said that money can be raised for preserving critical heritage sites such as Angkor Wat in Cambodia, "but we are much less successful, relatively speaking unable, to raise money ... in ways

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## Nations Face Massive Teacher Shortages, U.N. Report Finds . . .

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that matter or count for children who are our heritage of the future."

Children in the developing world "are dying a slow death from the lack of education," the UNESCO official said, yet the media is either "unable or unwilling to show the problem for what it is."

The report was released to highlight Education for All Week, which is celebrated each year on the anniversary of the 2000 World Education Forum held in Senegal. The week is intended to remind governments and the international community to keep their promise to achieve "education for all" by 2015.

The theme of the 2006 campaign is "every child needs a teacher."

The report will also be one of the documents discussed at a conference on global literacy scheduled for September in conjunction with the 61st session of the U.N. General Assembly. Plans for the conference were announced April 24 by U.S. first lady Laura Bush, honorary chair of United Nations Literacy Decade.

"We know regardless of the level of education ... people who go to school, stay in school and finish school do better -- they are healthier, participate civilly, economically, socially; they have more power; they do better than people who don't (go to school). It is that simple," Smith said.

The report demonstrates several different problems in education: quality of teachers, replacing current teachers who will leave the profession over the years, and creating additional positions to meet increasing numbers of students.

Countries that need the most teachers are also the ones that face severe fiscal constraints, Smith said. Many have no choice

61,000 thus increasing its current teaching force by almost 13 percent a year, which is the highest rate in the world. Burkina Faso, Congo and Niger are also expected to have similar needs.

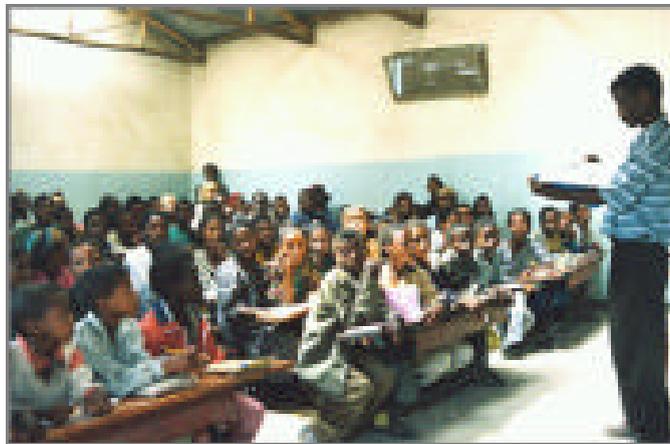
Ethiopia will need to create 153,000 new teaching posts to reach universal primary education while replacing 116,000 teachers who are expected to leave the profession over the next decade.

Arab states will need to create 450,000 new teaching posts mainly in Egypt, Iraq, Morocco, and Saudi Arabia, UNESCO said.

Another 325,000 teachers will be needed in South and West Asia. Afghanistan -- where the number of teachers must grow by almost 9 percent a year -- is in need of the most teachers, the report said.

Some countries have declining school-age populations and will need fewer teachers. China is expected to reduce its number of teachers by 1.8 million while more moderate reductions are estimated for Brazil and India, it said.

North American and Europe will face a shortage of teachers specializing in math and science, according to the report. Older teachers are retiring and potential teachers are being lured into more lucrative professions. As a result, UNESCO estimates that 1.2 million teachers will be needed over the next decade, primarily to compensate for attrition. ♦



**Bati Bora School's classrooms in Ethiopia are jammed by more than 80 students in three shifts. Sentinel photos by Ed Langlois**

but to rely on "para-teachers" who have less education and are paid less than teachers.

For example, more than half the primary teachers in the Congo consist of "volunteer parents" with limited or no formal training, he said.

UNESCO said that a lower secondary education is considered the absolute minimum qualification to teach yet only 45 percent of the teachers in Laos and 57 percent in the Congo meet that standard.

Chad will need almost four times as many primary teachers in 2015 from the current level of 16,000 to

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## U.S. Continues To Press for Robust WTO Negotiation Results . . .

*(Continued from page 9)*

which comprise two-thirds of the WTO membership, by up to \$259 billion by 2015.

Agriculture remains a key to success. It was placed at the heart of Doha in 2001 because of its importance to the developing world and because agriculture has the highest barriers to trade. Over 70% of the poor living in developing countries live in rural areas and depend on agriculture to make their living. Not surprisingly, 63% of the income gains the world's poor would enjoy as a result of a successful round would come from more open trade in agriculture and 93% of those potential benefits and income gains depend on improved market access. The facts are clear. Without new trade flows from reduced tariffs, there is no development in the Doha Development Round.

In order to reach an ambitious result and jumpstart the talks, last October the U.S. offered a bold proposal to eliminate export subsidies in agriculture, make deep cuts in agricultural tariffs and sharply reduce trade-distorting domestic subsidies. This significant and forward-looking proposal carries po-

litical risks at home but we believed then -- and we believe now -- that these are risks worth taking given the importance of the round, particularly for developing countries.

Since that time, our trading partners have failed to match that offer with equally ambitious offers, putting progress on additional market opening for industrial goods and services at risk. The U.S. cannot keep its current offer on agriculture on the table -- let alone unilaterally agree to make deeper cuts to our domestic support programs -- without additional and substantial steps by the European Union and other major partners, including those in the developing world, to open their markets. As we have made clear for six months, the U.S. offer was contingent on WTO members meeting the clear Doha mandate for new market access and new trade flows across the board. This means meaningful offers on market access in all three major negotiating areas -- agriculture, non-agricultural goods and services.

A seamless transition in the leadership at the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative underscores

the U.S. commitment to the Doha Round's success. The imperative remains for our trading partners to show more resolve in opening their markets. Free trade is at the center of President Bush's vision of a world of expanding economic opportunity, prosperity and freedom. Our pursuit of that vision will continue in an uninterrupted and unaltered fashion no matter who speaks for the president in global trade talks. The U.S. has made a clear choice to stand up to forces of economic isolationism and protectionism. We have chosen to reject the path of least resistance, and of incremental but insufficient changes in the global trading system. It is time for all WTO members to seize this last chance to make the same choice.

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Mr. Portman and Ms. Schwab are, respectively, U.S. trade representative and deputy U.S. trade representative. (Editor's note: Mr. Portman has just been named to head the Office of Management and Budget. Ms. Schwab has been nominated to succeed him as USTR.)

(end byliner) ♦

## African Cooperation Growing on Anti-Terrorism, U.S. Report Says . . .

*(Continued from page 9)*

the assets of designated terrorist organizations, including al-Qaida, and Uganda is a member of the Eastern and Southern Africa Anti-Money Laundering Group, a regional body of 14 countries that holds periodic anti-money laundering/counterterrorist financing strategy workshops at the ministerial level.

The full text (<http://www.state.gov/s/ct/rls/crt/c17689.htm>) of the report is available on the State Department Web site, as is the regional overview (<http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/65468.pdf>) (PDF, 14 pages) for Africa.

*(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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## Critical U.N. Reforms Actively Being Resisted, Bolton Says

Washington -- Management reform at the United Nations might be a matter of life and death, but a large bloc of countries actively is opposing proposed changes, says U.S. Ambassador John Bolton.

Testifying at a House subcommittee hearing May 2, the United States' U.N. ambassador said in prepared remarks that the Oil-for-Food scandal is emblematic of what happens in U.N. programs when independent oversight, transparency and accountability are ignored.

Not only can waste and corruption occur, he said, but the critical services and humanitarian supplies meant for vulnerable populations are not delivered. The Oil-for-Food Program in Iraq was established to provide food and medicine for the Iraqi people by allowing Iraq to sell oil during U.N. sanctions. Instead, the program resulted in more than 2,000 companies paying kickbacks to Saddam Hussein's regime, which then diverted the \$1.8 billion it received to its own coffers.

"When we are discussing management reform, we are ultimately talking about people's lives," Bolton said.

Although the United States and about 30 other governments whose contributions provide more than 80 percent of the U.N. budget are supporting U.N. reform, Bolton said, a much larger group of countries actively is opposing reform.

Battle lines are being drawn, according to Bolton. The pro-reform group strongly supports many of the reform proposals called for by U.N. Secretary-General Kofi An-

nan. This group also wants to establish a mandatory process to review all U.N. mandates more than five years old.



**U.N. Ambassador John Bolton testifies before the House National Security. (AP Photo/Mannie Garcia)**

"There is no systemized process in place to review mandates that might be obsolete or ineffective, nor has there been one at all in the 60-year existence of the U.N.," he said. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/usinfo/Archive/2006/Apr/13-482365.html>).)

But opposition is coming from the Group of 77 (G-77), which wants to exclude all mandates renewed by the U.N. General Assembly within the past five years from consideration, Bolton said. If successful, the G-77 position would exclude 75 percent of active mandates, hampering reform

efforts significantly.

"Many member states have pet projects that they will defend -- projects which are wasteful and serve little to no purpose," he said in explanation of those who oppose reforms.

Related to the changes sought in management, Bolton said, are proposals dealing with the rules and regulations governing U.N. agencies and programs.

Earlier this spring, in laying out his program for reform, Annan said there was a need for deep and fundamental change "for a radical overhaul of the United Nations Secretariat." But the G-77 also is resisting efforts to streamline even managerial structures and practices, Bolton said.

"We do not agree with every single reform proposed by the Secretary-General, but we certainly agree with his diagnosis of the problem," Bolton said.

"Unfortunately, we have encountered not indifference or a lackadaisical attitude toward these reforms by the G-77 -- we have encountered outright resistance and hostility to any reform effort at all."

For this reason, Bolton said he is not optimistic about U.N. reform prospects.

Additional information (<http://www.g77.org/>) about the G-77 is available on the group's Web site.

For more information on U.S. policy, see United States and U.N. Reform ([http://usinfo.state.gov/is/international\\_security/UNGA\\_2005.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/is/international_security/UNGA_2005.html)). ♦

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## Persecuted by Nazis, U.S. Immigrant Helped Criminalize Genocide

By Bernie Chabel  
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington — Raphael Lemkin gave a name — genocide — to a crime the world did not recognize and lobbied the international community tirelessly for a pact to outlaw it. His unflagging efforts produced the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948. Even so, Lemkin's story remains largely unheralded.

Holocaust Remembrance Day, observed April 25 in the United States, recalls the lives lost in one such genocide -- the state-directed murder by Nazi Germany and its allies of 6 million European Jews, nearly two of every three alive before the World War II, and of other similarly persecuted groups, including Roma and Sinti (half their population), homosexuals, the physically and mentally disabled and other peoples deemed "undesirable."

Raphael Lemkin was born in 1900 in the Pale of Settlement (those Russian imperial territories where Jews were permitted to reside; Lemkin's home village lies in present-day Lithuania) -- to a Polish-Jewish family. The young Lemkin soon displayed the two characteristics that would shape his future contributions: a talent for languages and an intense interest, as Samantha Power wrote in her Pulitzer Prize winning *A Problem from Hell: America and the Age of Genocide*, in "details on historical cases of mass slaughter, learning about the sacking of Carthage, the Mongol invasions, and the targeting of the French Huguenots [Protestants]."

Strongly influenced by his well-read and intellectual mother, Lemkin mastered nine languages by the age of 14. At university, he studied linguistics and philosophy before entering the law as a public prosecutor in now-independent Poland. In 1933, Lemkin prepared for a League of Nations international law conference a proposal to declare the destruction of racial, religious or social "collectivities" a crime under the law of nations. It was not adopted.



Raphael Lemkin

With the outbreak of the World War II in September 1939, Lemkin joined the Polish army. Wounded in the unsuccessful defense of Warsaw, Lemkin fled. A colleague at Duke University Law School in



Durham, North Carolina, helped him obtain permission to enter the United States in April 1941.

Lemkin lost 49 relatives in the Holocaust. The devastation of his family mirrored the destruction of

Jewish life in Poland. According to Yad Vashem, the official Israeli memorial to victims of the Holocaust, of Poland's pre-war Jewish population of 3.3 million, only about 300,000 Polish Jews survived the war, among them Lemkin's brother, sister-in-law, and two nephews, who had been imprisoned in a Soviet labor camp.

Lemkin's international law expertise helped him greatly in the United States. He joined the law faculty at Duke and advised a number of government agencies including the Department of War. Meanwhile, he worked on a study of how Nazi Germany and its allies governed the countries they occupied during the war. In November 1944, the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace published it as *Axis Rule in Occupied Europe*.

It was here that Lemkin introduced the word "genocide." "New conceptions require new terms," he wrote. By "genocide" we mean the destruction of a nation or of an ethnic group. A hybrid of the Greek derivative *geno* (meaning "race" or "tribe") and the Latin derivative *cide* ("killing"), the new term was short, novel and unlikely to be mispronounced.

For the remainder of his life, Lemkin worked for a universal ban of the "crime with no name" that he had named. At the 1945–46 Nuremberg Trials of Nazi war criminals, Lemkin advised the U.S. chief prosecutor, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Robert H. Jackson.

Lemkin then devoted his energies to the new United Nations organization. He helped draft a conven-

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## Persecuted by Nazis, U.S. Immigrant Helped Criminalize Genocide . . .

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tion to define and outlaw genocide and campaigned relentlessly for its approval. In December 1948, the General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. It took force in January 1951, and barred under international law defined acts "committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial or religious group."

For the first time, the nations of the world asserted the weight of international law to protect individuals from deadly persecution on the basis of their group identity.

Even after the U.N. convention was in place, Lemkin continued to lobby for its ratification by individual nations until his sudden death on August 28, 1959. At the time, he was penniless and living in a one-room apartment in New York City. Seven people attended his funeral.

Over time, however, the necessity of his work and significance of his achievement became apparent. Decades later, on the 50th anniversary of the Genocide Convention, U.N. Secretary-General Kofi

Annan recalled Lemkin as "one of the unsung heroes of the international human rights movement. He infused the battle against genocide with new insights and passion, almost single-handedly drafted an international multilateral treaty declaring genocide an international crime, and then turned to the



United Nations in its earliest days and implored Member States to adopt it." Annan's prepared remarks were read by his wife Nane Annan, a half-niece of Raoul Wallenberg, the Swedish diplomat who personally saved thousands of Jews before disappearing in a Soviet gulag.

More information on the Holocaust and Lemkin is available on the Web sites of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum (<http://www.ushmm.org/>) and Yad Vashem (<http://www.yadvashem.org/>). Samples of Lemkin's writings (<http://www.preventgenocide.org/lemkin/index.htm>) are available on a Web site of Prevent Genocide International.

The full text ([http://www.unhchr.ch/html/menu3/b/p\\_genoci.htm](http://www.unhchr.ch/html/menu3/b/p_genoci.htm)) of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide is available on the Web site of the U.N. Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

For additional information on U.S. policy, see Darfur Humanitarian Crisis (<http://usinfo.state.gov/af/africa/darfur.html>) and see International Religious Freedom ([http://usinfo.state.gov/dhr/human\\_rights/intl\\_religious\\_freedom.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/dhr/human_rights/intl_religious_freedom.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. Senator Does a "Slam Dunk" for Africa Malaria Day . . .

(Continued from page 4)

Capital Management Inc., said he wanted to increase awareness of the killer disease's effect on Africa by appealing to the sports-mindedness of his fellow New Yorkers.

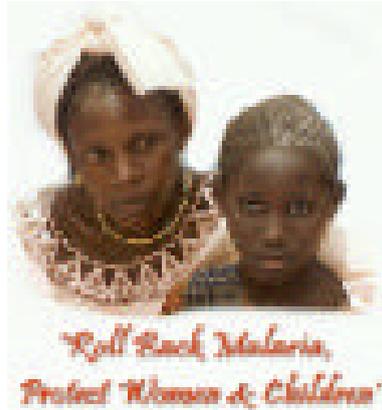
One day, he said, he walked all over the city, from lower Manhattan to Harlem, carrying a small basketball hoop with net attached "to raise people's awareness of the problem. I was really startled to see how few people even knew that malaria was such a killer in Africa and that here was a disease that is both treatable and preventable."

That marked the start of his non-governmental organization (NGO), Hedge Funds vs. Malaria, which, combined with sponsorship from the New York Knickerbockers professional basketball team, helped kick off the "Dunk Malaria" campaign in March. Money raised helped set up "malaria-free zones" in villages in Ghana, Nigeria, Kenya and Tanzania.

### ROLE OF PESTICIDES IN FIGHTING DISEASE

American University professor George Ayittey, president of the NGO Free Africa Foundation, worked with Laifer in Africa on the malaria project. He told Brownback, "We have had some success on the prevention front," but that effort, he said, did not include spraying DDT in homes, a practice employed in the 1950s and 1960s that effectively suppressed mosquitoes but came under fire from environmental groups because of the insecticide's overuse and resultant environmental damage.

DDT is one of 12 poisons banned



from use by the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), although the treaty does allow continued use of DDT for vector control in countries prone to malaria. This exemption has been included because alternative pesticides are frequently too expensive for developing nations suffering high disease rates.

POP chemicals are proven to be dangerous to both human health and the environment because they resist chemical breakdown and tend to accumulate in the environment and in human tissue. The United States banned most uses of DDT in 1972.

The U.S. State Department urged the Congress to move forward with ratification of the POPs treaty. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/Archive/2005/Dec/21-300804.html>).

Many African nations have been dissuaded from preventative DDT spraying, in part because of objections from the European Union (EU). The EU, which trades with many African countries, has said it would be reluctant to accept agricultural products if widespread

spraying took place.

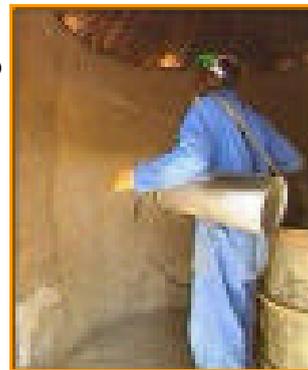
According to Paul Driessen, a policy analyst with the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), who attended the Brownback event, raising awareness of the value of DDT in fighting malaria is the way to go, attributing the most effective suppression of the disease to its use in the past. He said, "Success breeds success and interest. More and more communities and countries are going to say, 'We want the DDT.'"

Brownback, who said, "You don't need to sell me on the idea," added that he would be happy to write a letter to World Bank President Paul Wolfowitz, whose organization helps fund anti-malaria programs on the continent, emphasizing the need to take a multi-pronged approach to malaria prevention, including spraying DDT.

Brownback, who has made a number of humanitarian visits to Africa, including to the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Kenya in December 2005, said he was especially struck by the mounting death toll from malaria on the continent.

Other recommended methods for controlling mosquito populations and preventing malaria are source reduction, through reducing breeding habit, and insecticide-treated bednets, which protect a sleeper from being bitten.

For more information, see [www.fightingmalaria.gov](http://www.fightingmalaria.gov) (<http://www.fightingmalaria.gov>). ♦



DDT spraying

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## U.S. Medical Agency Funds Successful Bird Flu Vaccine Test

Washington – A commercially developed vaccine funded by the U.S. National Institutes of Health has protected mice and ferrets against a highly lethal avian influenza virus.

California company Vical Inc., developed the vaccine, and an investigator at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Tennessee led the study, according to a May 2 St. Jude press release.

The finding, coupled with results of previous studies that showed protection against multiple human influenza strains, suggests that such a vaccine would protect humans against multiple variants of the bird and human influenza viruses, said Richard Webby of St. Jude.

Such a vaccine could protect people against an H5N1 bird flu virus that mutates to adapt to humans, not just birds, and easily can spread from person to person, Webby said.

Flu experts and public health officials fear that such a variant of H5N1 would trigger a human pandemic.

The studies included 16 mice or six ferrets in each vaccine or control group, and the investigators used two versions of Vical's DNA-based vaccine in the studies.

One vaccine was directed against three viral proteins – NP, M2 and H5.

NP and M2 usually do not mutate quickly (they are "conserved") and are slow to avoid immune re-

sponses that a vaccine triggers.

H5 is a mutating ("variable") protein on the surface of the bird and human flu viruses that is critical to the viruses' ability to infect cells. The H5 protein easily mutates, so it can avoid immune responses triggered naturally or by a vaccine.



**Richard Webby, PhD. The success of a commercially-produced vaccine in protecting laboratory animals from bird flu virus during studies performed at St. Jude suggests that it would protect humans if the virus mutates and acquires the ability to spread from person to person.**

The other vaccine used in the study contained only the two conserved viral proteins, NP and M2.

All test DNA vaccines were formulated with the company's Vaxfectin™ adjuvant. An adjuvant is an additive administered with a vaccine that has little effect by itself, but improves the response of the immune system to the vaccine.

In the St. Jude study, the three-component vaccine (H5, NP, M2) protected the mice completely against potentially lethal challenges with a highly virulent H5N1 avian influenza virus.

Other studies showed that a version of the vaccine containing only the NP and M2 components provided significant protection against

several strains of human influenza virus and the H5N1 bird flu strain.

"By stimulating immune responses against targets not likely to mutate," he added, "the vaccine could trigger an immune defense against a broad range of variants of the virus."

Even if the bird flu virus mutates to adapt to humans, Webby said, cross protection would let the immune system track and attack such an emerging new variant "without missing a beat.

"We wouldn't have to wait to start developing a vaccine against it until after the original virus mutated," he added, which would have to be done now if bird flu adapted to become transmissible between humans, the mutation that could lead to a human pandemic of disease.

Webby's team showed that all mice and ferrets that received the DNA vaccine survived the challenge with the virulent H5N1 strain; those that received a "blank" (placebo) vaccine did not survive.

The vaccine also prevented weight loss in all animals challenged with the virulent virus, suggesting that the vaccine might also protect humans against serious flu-related sickness. The DNA vaccines targeted NP and M2 – with and without the H5 avian influenza virus surface protein. ♦

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## Legendary Broadcaster Edward R. Murrow's Impact Still Felt Today

By Jim Fisher-Thompson  
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- From his daring, live radio broadcasts during the Nazi air attacks on Britain in 1940 to hard-hitting documentaries on television in the 1950s and early 1960s, Edward R. Murrow set a high standard for excellence recognized to this day by journalists worldwide.

Radio broadcaster Bob Edwards fielded questions about Murrow and his brand of journalism during a May 3 -- World Press Freedom Day 2006 -- webchat sponsored by the State Department.

Edwards, who was inducted into the National Radio Hall of Fame in 2004, recently authored the book, *Edward R. Murrow and the Birth of Broadcast Journalism*.

Murrow's impact is especially important for journalists today, Edwards told his Internet audience, because "they should know that there was a time that we did this broadcast journalism business better than we do it today ... and so that we should demand more of today's broadcasters."

Unfortunately, money seems to be a greater driving force in the news business than in Murrow's time, Edwards said. "Today, a lot of broadcasters pay lip service to Murrow's standards but don't apply those standards ... now we have television news divisions that are expected to make money as opposed to Murrow's days when news was not profit-driven. So to-

day we are seeing more crime news and 'celebrity stories'."

Broadcast journalism in America was more aggressive in Murrow's time -- and the top reporters were unafraid of tackling the most controversial issues. Many believe that today's broadcast journalism, driven by ratings, seeks to appeal to a broader audience -- an audience that would rather be entertained than informed.

Asked if Murrow would agree that radio in general had less impact than television, Edwards said, "In the sense of news radio, it is fading away because commercial radio does not have an interest in reporting news.



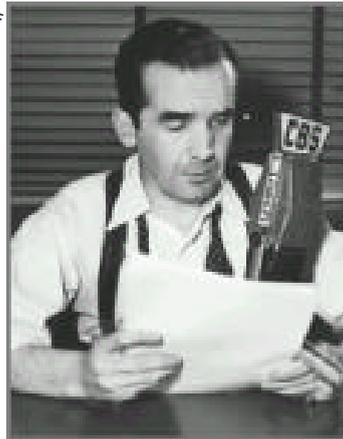
Bob Edwards

"But I think Murrow would like what he would hear on National Public Radio in terms of news coverage," he added.

When asked whether media could help improve relations between peoples and cultures, Edwards responded: "Understanding is always improved by accurate information. It's ignorance and false information that leads to misunderstanding.

Murrow left CBS News in 1961 after the newly elected President John F. Kennedy asked him head

up the U.S. Information Agency (USIA) at a time when events like the abortive Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba and the Cuban missile crisis heated up the Cold War.



Edward R. Murrow

In 1961, Bob Krill began a 30-year career with USIA being sworn in by Murrow. "We were all excited," Krill told the Washington File during a May 3 phone interview. "Murrow had such an outstanding reputation as a broadcast journalist and we were all proud to begin work with a government agency headed by him."

Krill who worked as a press and cultural affairs officer in Indonesia, Laos, Italy, Nigeria and Tunisia said "I just thought the world of Murrow." During the time Murrow led the agency (1961-1964), the retired officer said, "I thought he was absolutely the most qualified person to head USIA and tell America's story during that turbulent era.

"The fact that he was so personable and willing to tackle the most complex problems we were facing in that era with the Soviet Union showed us that it was a brilliant choice by President Kennedy to have named him to the USIA job," Krill said.

"I went overseas to work in the Embassy in Indonesia three months after being sworn in by Murrow," Krill said. "And the 20

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## North Korea Tops Media Censorship List

By Judy Aita  
Washington File United Nations  
Correspondent

New York -- North Korea practices more media censorship than any other country in the world, according to a new report released by the independent, nonprofit Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ).

The New York-based CPJ gathers annual statistics on the number of journalists killed, threatened or harassed as a way to monitor global press freedom.

Additional countries on CPJ's list are Burma, Turkmenistan, Equatorial Guinea, Libya, Eritrea, Cuba, Uzbekistan, Syria and Belarus.

Most of these countries are ruled by one man who remains in power to a large degree by controlling the media, CPJ Executive Director Ann Cooper told reporters May 2.

"When the state controls all media, opposition voices don't get heard, critical analysis of the government's performance is hidden from the public. In some cases, like North Korea, Turkmenistan and Equatorial Guinea, the media are actively used to foster a cult of personality around the country's autocratic leaders," she said.

"By any international standard, the practices of these governments are unacceptable," Cooper said. She called on the leaders of those governments to "join the free world" by abandoning their restrictive actions.

CPJ's latest analysis, released in time for 2006 World Press Freedom Day on May 3, focused on

the consequences to the public in countries where all media are controlled by the state, where the Internet is either unavailable or censored, and where foreign news broadcasts are jammed by the government.

"People in countries like that," Cooper said, "are virtually isolated from the rest of the world, kept uniformed by authoritarian rulers who muzzle the media, who keep a chokehold on information through restrictive laws, fear, and intimidation."

Press freedom, she continued, "is essential for democracy, for free and fair elections in a democracy, and the oversight of governments that are chosen by voters in those elections."

### **RATING DEGREES OF CENSORSHIP**

The list was compiled by CPJ's regional staff members, who rated the degree of censorship using 17 different benchmarks such as censorship laws, imprisonment and harassment of journalists, restrictions on private Internet access, jamming of foreign news broadcasts and the degree of the state's control of the media.

Each country on the list uses at least nine of the 17 censorship benchmarks, Cooper said. "In all 10 countries print and electronic media are under very heavy state control -- sometimes complete state control -- or heavy state influence."

### **SNAPSHOTS OF PRESS RESTRICTIONS**

North Korea and Libya have no independent media at all and Equatorial

Guinea has one private broadcaster, but its owner is the president's son, Cooper said. Eritrea is the only country in sub-Saharan Africa without a single private media outlet.

"People in North Korea are the most isolated people in the world," Cooper said. "They live in the world's deepest information void where there is not a single independent journalist, where only a handful of foreign journalists are ever allowed to enter and those who are kept on a very tight leash while they are inside North Korea."

The government controls all local media and the official Korean Central News Agency offers a steady diet of fawning coverage of "dear leader" Kim Jong Il, Cooper said. One example of how censorship can harm the public, she pointed out, was when the government did not deem it newsworthy to report the famine in the 1990s that affected millions of North Koreans.

In Syria, the media are under heavy state control and influence as well, according to CPJ. Some media outlets are in private hands but are owned by regime loyalists or are barred from disseminating political content. Press laws map out an array of restrictions, including a requirement that periodicals obtain licenses from the prime minister, who can deny any application not in the "public interest." Critics are arrested or harassed with warnings.

Uzbekistan, Belarus and Cuba have zero tolerance of negative coverage, Cooper said. Burma showed a "cynical disregard" for

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## Internet Connections Growing Fastest in Africa

By Charles W. Corey  
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- Africa is gaining Internet connectivity faster than any other region and as such, service is spreading to smaller cities and rural areas via innovative technologies -- and that only can help the expansion of free press, democracy and development all across the continent, says the co-founder and chief executive officer of allAfrica.com, Reed Kramer.

In an interview with the Washington File to mark May 3 World Press Freedom Day, Kramer cited a recent survey by the London-based newsletter *Balancing Act*, which projects that international bandwidth to Africa will grow by 81 percent between 2005 and 2008, making the Internet accessible to more users across the continent.

Kramer said Internet users in Africa now exceed 22 million, according to an estimate produced by Internet World Stats, a marketing and research Web site. Although only 2.5 percent of Africa's 900 million people are online, compared with nearly 16 percent worldwide, the number has grown by 400 percent since 2000, the World Stats figures show.

Continentwide, Kramer said, the largest populations of Internet users are in South Africa, Egypt, Morocco and Kenya.

With an estimated 3.6 million users, Kramer said, South Africa remains the country with the largest number of users but no longer makes up the majority of users as in years past. Additionally, Kramer

cited World Stats figures that show actual usage throughout Africa might be six times to eight times larger than the number of Internet accounts, due to the growth of cybercafes and other multiperson access points.

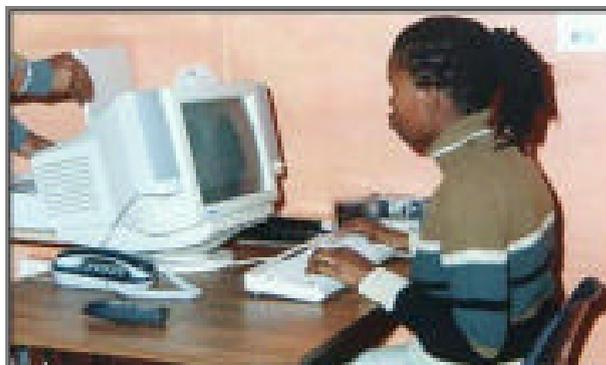
Kramer said the Internet and its growing evolution across Africa have revolutionized news-gathering in Africa and the operations of allAfrica.com as well.

Kramer's comments came in an interview marking World Press Freedom Day -- which this year celebrates the theme "Media as Good Governance."

A free press, Kramer said, is a "key building block" of any democratic society -- and especially in those societies that have less democratic tradition and judicial independence than in the United States. The press can play a "multitude of roles" in any society, he said, from watchdog, to advocate -- providing a platform for competing and conflicting viewpoints. All of that is key to democracy."

Media, Kramer stressed, also have a big role to play in development. "It is very important that as countries debate and determine direction and make choices about resources that the media is there is to help peoples' viewpoints be heard and sponsor debates on these very vital topics ... and serve as a forum" for all opinions.

Kramer believes that the Internet has created openings and opportunities for the free press in Africa and that the trend for increased free press is moving in the right direction. He was joined by two of his colleagues to discuss that point: Gaddiel Baah, an English news editor from Ghana and Aminata Sall, a French language editor from Senegal. Most of allAfrica.com's employees are African.



Internet Café in South African

Kramer and his two colleagues agreed that trends are moving in the right direction on expanding press freedoms, but warned that results have been mixed and serious problems persist.

"I am hopeful," that the free press can expand in Africa, Baah said. "Naturally, with the expansion of democratic space ... all of the institutions and organizations that thrive on democracy will inevitably grow -- so respect for the rights of journalists, respect for laws that regulate the media and having the right laws -- these things tend to improve as the general democratic atmosphere improves in the country, the region and the continent."

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## North Korea Tops Media Censorship List . . .

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its people by stifling coverage of the December 2004 tsunami.

Reporters covering opposition to the re-election of Belarus President Aleksandr Lukashenko were jailed and charged with crimes such as "hooliganism," Cooper pointed out.

For additional information on journalism and press freedom, see World Press Freedom Day ([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 Press Freedom ([http://usinfo.state.gov/dhr/democracy/rule\\_of\\_law/press\\_freedom.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/dhr/democracy/rule_of_law/press_freedom.html)).

The full text (<http://www.cpj.org/>) of the report on the 10 most censored countries is available on the CPJ Web site. ♦

## Legendary Broadcaster Edward R. Murrow's . . .

*(Continued from page 19)*

USIA officers working at the post, some of them former newsmen, were elated with Murrow taking over."

After President Kennedy was assassinated in November 1963, Murrow agreed to stay on at USIA despite early symptoms of the lung cancer that would kill him in 1965. Shortly before his death, Murrow was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Upon his death, fellow CBS journalist Eric Sevareid said: "He was a shooting star; we will not see his like again."

For additional information, see World Press Freedom Day ([http://usinfo.state.gov/dhr/democracy/rule\\_of\\_law/press\\_freedom.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/dhr/democracy/rule_of_law/press_freedom.html)). ♦

## Internet Connections Growing Fastest in Africa . . .

*(Continued from page 21)*

### TENSIONS BETWEEN MEDIA AND GOVERNMENT

All agreed there is a natural tension between the government and a free press in any country.

Sall recalled that recently, there was heated debate in Cote d'Ivoire about what issues journalists should cover and what is in their reporting purview. Kramer added, "We see the same issues confronting the press in Africa that we see here."

"AllAfrica.com provides a gateway and a platform where readers from around the world can get a variety of viewpoints and perspectives on what is going on in most parts of Africa and most of that comes from the African media that

are represented on our site and through our distribution channels that we reach," Kramer added.

AllAfrica.com works directly with 125 news organizations in Africa, Kramer said. "We receive content from them. We have contracts with them to receive their content. We share revenue with them and provide visibility. We not only distribute their stories through allAfrica.com the Web site, we also have a news wire -- the allAfrica.com news wire." That wire, he said, goes out to many of the best-known media outlets like Bloomberg, Financial Times, Lexus-Nexus.

Kramer said, allAfrica.com also has an environmental news wire, provides specialized feeds to corporate clients and a small news operation of its own, which pro-

vides coverage of U.S.-Africa relations and often does interviews with African heads of state.

The allAfrica.com Web site, Kramer said, has 12 million page views every month and about 1 million unique users spread across the globe, with more than half of those users being in North America.

Although a large digital divide still exists between Africa and the rest of the world, Kramer concluded, technology is changing the way Africans live and improving their lives daily.

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)). ♦