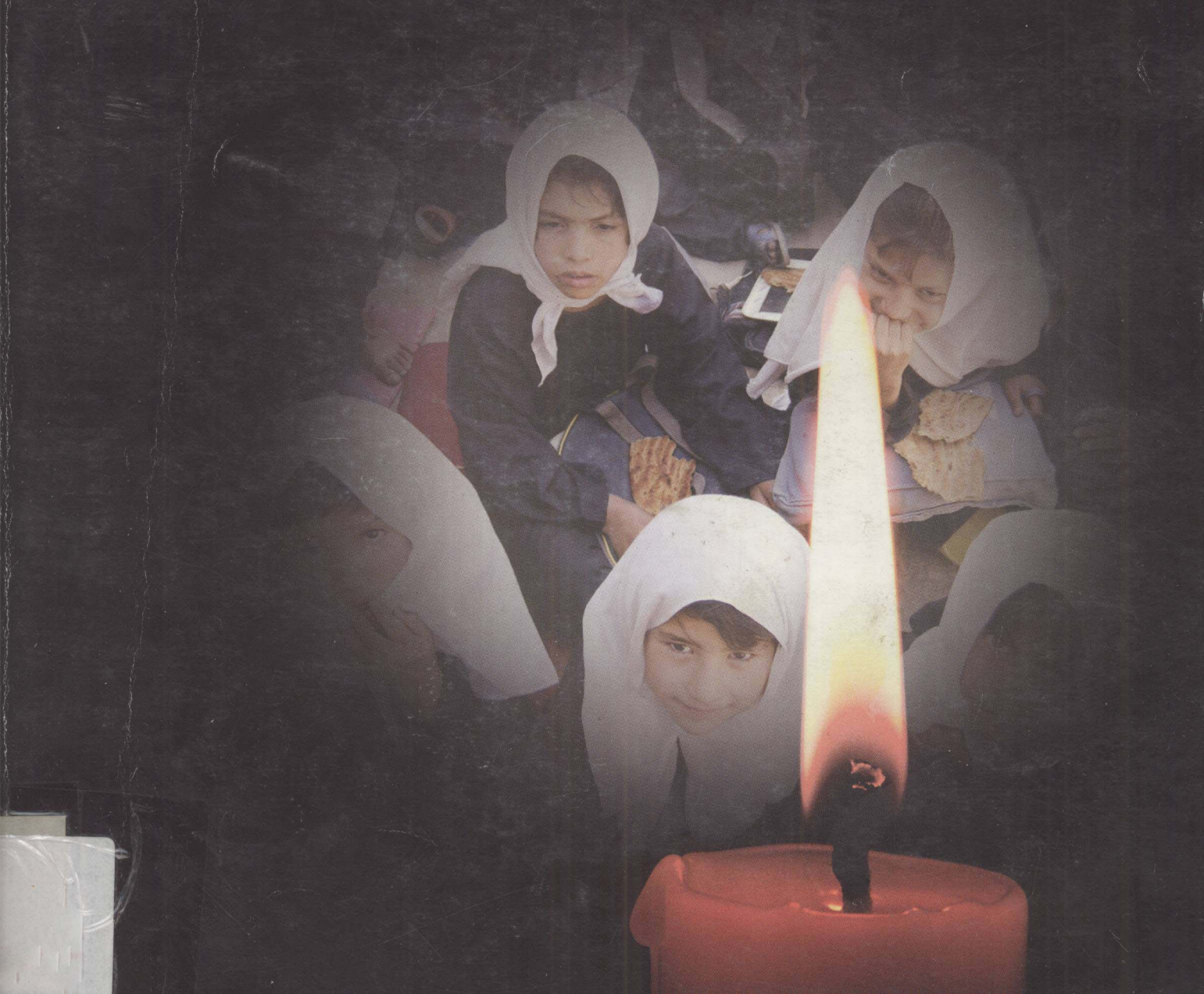


United States Department of State



SUPPORTING HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY: THE U.S. RECORD 2002-2003





SUPPORTING HUMAN RIGHTS
AND DEMOCRACY:
THE U.S. RECORD
2002 -2003



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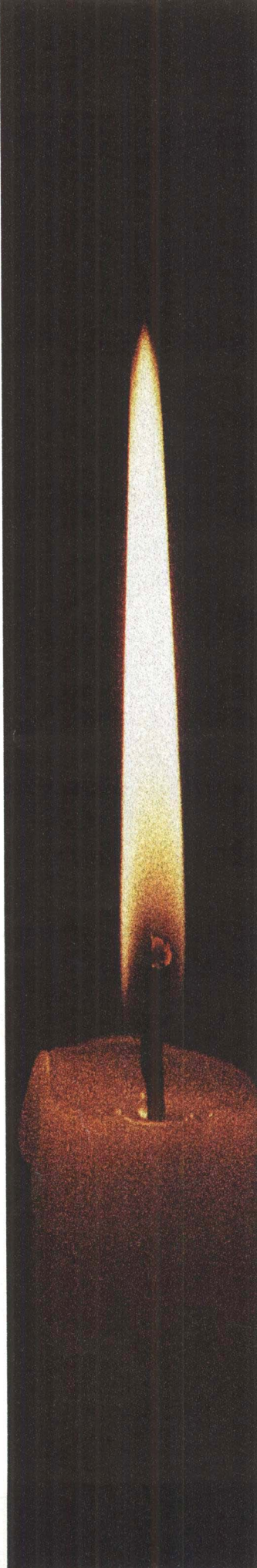
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PREFACE

U.S. policy to protect human rights springs from American ideals and our sense of national interest. But even more important than our high aspirations and purposes is the work and will that Americans have put into achieving them. From the signing of the Declaration of Independence, to the fight against slavery and racial inequality, to standing up to totalitarian menaces, Americans have proved capable of turning vision into action. And much work remains to be done.

This combination of idealism and practical policy implementation has become a hallmark of our foreign policy in the area of international human rights. We are proud to present to you *Supporting Human Rights and Democracy: The U.S. Record 2002-2003* – a report that for the first time in a systematic way captures the tireless work of the U.S. Government to promote democratic structures and respect for human rights. This document complements our annual *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices* in substance and spirit, and details how we are applying the high standards of the *Country Reports* to the actions we are taking to decrease the number and severity of human rights abuses worldwide.

The fall of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War emboldened us to think of a 21st century world of ever-expanding democracy and human rights. The terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 and the threats they exposed challenged us to strengthen our efforts to overcome the obstacles to building such a world. We are answering that call to action, because liberty and rule of law help prevent terrorism from thriving. We are committed to building on our ongoing efforts and continuing to work in partnership with the international community to anticipate and respond to pressing needs wherever they may arise.

By sharing what we are doing to prevent human rights abuses and advance democracy in every region of the world, *Supporting Human Rights and Democracy: The U.S. Record 2002-2003* also identifies promising approaches for all who are working toward a future in which brutality, tyranny and repression claim fewer and fewer victims and no longer possess the ability to fuel violent extremism in all its forms — where peace, equality and freedom are nurtured and protected by all. I hope you'll share this report with others who — like you — believe we can achieve this vision together

Colin L. Powell,
Secretary of State



OVERVIEW AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This report is submitted to the Congress by the Department of State in compliance with Section 665 of P.L. 107-228, the Fiscal Year 2003 Foreign Relations Authorization Act, which was signed into law on September 30, 2002. It requires the Department to report on actions taken by the U.S. Government to encourage respect for human rights. This report is being submitted to Congress for the first time and complements the annual *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2002*.

Unlike the 196 *Country Reports, Supporting Human Rights and Democracy: The U.S. Record 2002-2003* highlights U.S. efforts to promote human rights and democracy in only 92 countries and entities — the 92 with the most human rights abuses. References to Hong Kong, Macau and Tibet have been incorporated into the China report, and Western Sahara is mentioned in the Morocco report. Due to the rapidly evolving situation in Iraq, this report does not include that country.

The responsibility of the United States to speak out on behalf of international human rights standards was formalized in the early 1970s. In 1976 Congress enacted legislation creating a Coordinator of Human Rights in the Department of State, a position later upgraded to Assistant Secretary. This report takes the next step, moving from highlighting abuses to publicizing the actions and programs that the United States has taken to end those abuses.

Supporting Human Rights and Democracy: The U.S. Record 2002-2003 reflects dedicated effort by hundreds of State Department, U.S. Agency for International Development, and other U.S. Government employees, as well as the employees of numerous non-governmental organizations. Our embassies and consulates prepared the initial drafts of the reports. After the missions completed their drafts, the texts were sent to Washington for careful review by the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, in cooperation with other State Department offices and other Departments and agencies. As they worked to analyze and edit the reports, the Department officers drew on their own knowledge of U.S. Government programs and activities.

Supporting Human Rights and Democracy: The U.S. Record 2002-2003 will be used as a resource for shaping policy, conducting diplomacy and making assistance, training and other resource allocations. It will also serve as a basis for the U.S. Government's cooperation with private groups to promote the observance of internationally recognized human rights and democracy.

Within the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, the editorial staff of the Country Reports Team consists of: Editors in Chief — Cynthia R. Bunton and Robert P. Jackson; Senior Advisors — E. Michael Southwick and Elizabeth Dugan; Editors — Ralph D. Anske, Lena Auerbach, Judith R. Baroody, Jarrett Basedow, Sally I. Buikema, Deborah J. Cahalen, Stuart Crampton, Jeanette Davis, Patricia A. Davis, Julie Eadeh, Carol G. Finerty, Amy E. Gadsden, Solange Garvey, Jean M. Geran, Tatiana Gfoeller, Karen Gilbride, Sondra Govatski, Maya Graham, Thomas J. Grubisha, Patrick Harvey, Ann Marie Jackson, Yvonne Jackson, Jeffrey M. Jamison, Kari Johnstone, Christina Jun, Joanna Levison, Mia Kelley, Amy E. McKee, Ryan McMillan, Peter Mulrean, Peter Neisuler, Michael Orona, Susan O'Sullivan, Sarah Fox Ozkan, Donald E. Parker, Maria B. Pica, Jennifer M. Pekkinen, LeRoy G. Potts, Lisa Rende Taylor, Rebecca A. Schwalbach, Danielle B. Segall, Lynn M. Sicade, Wendy B. Silverman, Anne Sorensen, Cathy Stump, Ross Taggart, Vonzella Taylor, Danika Walters, and Sarah Yeomans; Design by Regina Cross; Printing — Bob Mahiques, Technical Support — Daniel Bowens.

INTRODUCTION

The advancement of human rights and democracy has many dimensions. There is certainly a long history of identifying those rights — as we have recognized them in our own political system and in actions the international community has taken through such instruments as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Creating international consensus on what constitutes fundamental rights was a major step forward, taken in the aftermath of the atrocities of World War II, although we discovered that in practice many governments failed to live up to their commitments, and in some cases, openly flouted international human rights standards.

In this kind of environment, monitoring human rights abuses and holding governments accountable for violations is another indispensable part of protecting human rights. For decades, non-governmental organizations have taken up the challenge of collecting comprehensive data and giving a voice to those whose testimony oppressive governments would silence. Since 1977, the State Department has published the annual *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices*, which enjoys a hard-won status as an accurate and objective portrayal of the human rights situation around the globe. It is an indispensable tool in our efforts to advocate for the victims of human rights abuses and to press upon foreign governments the need to take positive steps to build free, democratic and stable societies.

Over a quarter-century of reporting on human rights has helped shine a light on the worst abuses and kept pressure on oppressive governments. In the past 10-15 years, particularly with the fall of the Soviet Union, the United States has taken opportunities to extend human rights promotion beyond what is called the “name and shame” strategy. This has required us to look at the human rights reports as not merely a record of past performance, but a guide to areas and methods for future improvement. More recently, President Bush’s U.S.-Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) and Millennium Challenge Account (MCA) proposals have increased our reliance on human rights reporting for achieving objectives of democratic governance. And so more and more, we are using the annual *Country Reports* with these goals in mind, to help us and others involved in policymaking tailor assistance programs to achieve real and measurable impact.

Supporting Human Rights and Democracy: The U.S. Record 2002-2003 identifies in a more systematic way, for Congress, the American public and audiences overseas, how the U.S. Government is integrating policy with reporting on human rights. Around the world, in every region, the United States is implementing programs, taking advantage of the information and understanding of global human rights that we have built up over the years by compiling the annual *Country Reports*. In this volume, we detail our efforts in 92 countries, taking care to include among them places of concern for “extrajudicial killings, torture, or other serious violations of human rights,” as Congress called for in the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 2003.

These reports have been produced by the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, but would not have been possible without the contributions of regional and other functional bureaus of the Department of State and U.S. missions abroad, and those provided by the U.S. Departments of Justice and Labor and the U.S. Agency for International Development. In fact, the joint production of the report mirrors the collaborative nature of our efforts to defend and promote democracy worldwide.



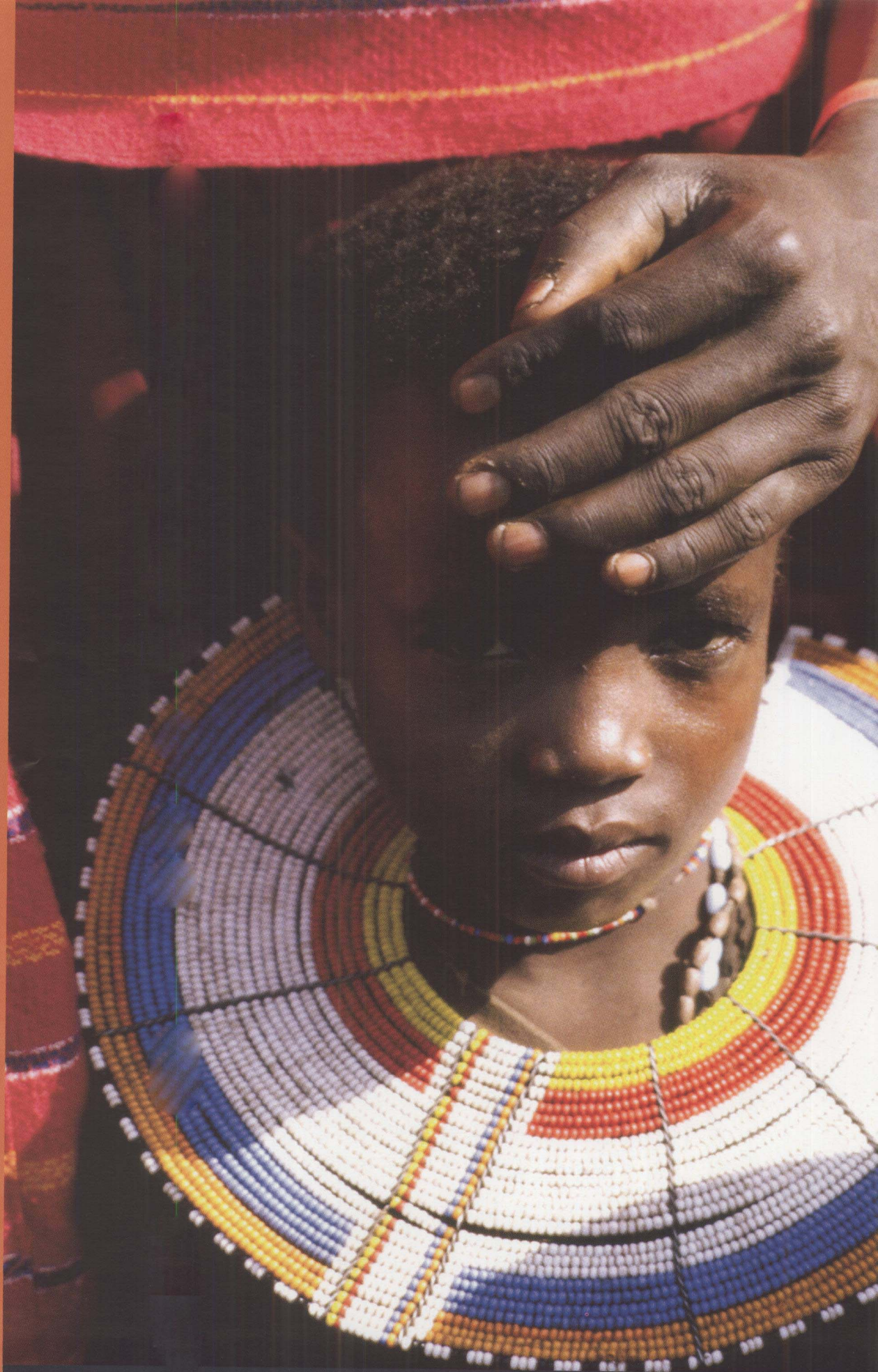
The *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices* have served as a catalog of the problems of human rights in countries worldwide, and we have striven to present that information with accuracy and integrity. In this inaugural edition of *Supporting Human Rights and Democracy: The U.S. Record 2002-2003*, we describe solutions, implemented by individuals and organizations whose vision looks toward a better world and whose courage inspires groundswells for change. The U.S. Government is proud to support their efforts.

Lorne W. Craner

**Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy,
Human Rights and Labor**



| AFRICA





A

decade ago single-party states and military dictatorships were the norm in sub-Saharan Africa. The 2003 Freedom House report, using its stringent criteria, lists 18 African countries as free. Many more countries have made significant strides toward free and fair elections, effective governance and respect for internationally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms. Some long-term civil wars have concluded or may be near resolution.

Nonetheless, democracy efforts and human rights in Africa face severe challenges. These result from continuing conflict in some countries and regions, weak institutions and leadership, disunity among racial, linguistic, religious, and tribal groups, corruption, and poor governance. The amazing change that has occurred in Kenya in recent months, however, underscores the thirst and the determination of all people for good government. The same can be said of the brave people of Zimbabwe, who struggle under the heel of a despotic regime.

Many African leaders recognize the challenge; one promising initiative is the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). To be effective, both NEPAD and the African Union must demonstrate their credibility by holding each participating state to high standards of democracy and human rights and imposing consequences for those African nations that fail to uphold them. Sub-regional bodies like the Southern African Development Community and Economic Community of West African States also have important roles to play.

The United States is buttressing African efforts through election support and corporate responsibility programs. We have focused on efforts to resolve conflicts, defuse religious tensions, and strengthen rule of law, free media, and civil society. We continue to seek ways to expand capacity building and to professionalize African militaries. The African Growth and Opportunity Act encourages reform efforts. The Millennium Challenge Account, President Bush's landmark initiative to produce new accountability and results in foreign aid, also stands to benefit Africa in an enormous way.

"In our desire to be safe from brutal and bullying oppression, human beings are the same. In our desire to care for our children and give them a better life, we are the same. For these fundamental reasons, freedom and democracy will always and everywhere have greater appeal than the slogans of hatred and the tactics of terror."

President Bush
Speech at American
Enterprise Institute
February 26, 2003

PROVIDING ANGOLANS WITH ACCESS TO INDEPENDENT RADIO

In Angola we are using the Human Rights and Democracy Fund to expand access to independent radio to 85% of the population by providing for the installation of studios and transmitters for Angola's only independent radio station, Radio Ecclesia. Radio Ecclesia is making a difference by informing its audience of what is happening in the country. Members of Angola's civil society have called the radio a key player to bringing democracy to the country. We expect the Radio to play an especially important role as Angola prepares for elections.



on the
air

ANGOLA

Angola, with the exception of Cabinda province, is slowly emerging from 27 years of civil war. Corrupt and dysfunctional government institutions, limited access to independent information, and a weak civil society inhibit rapid progress toward genuine democracy and respect for human rights. Moreover, as Angola prepares for only its second national elections, the country lacks adequate procedures and capacity to ensure a free and fair electoral process. With the spread of HIV/AIDS and the large population movements following the war, provisions against discrimination and protection of education, housing, and land access rights are limited.

The U.S. has focused on building civil society's capacity to advocate human and constitutional rights, as a means of pressing the Government to address violations and limits on freedom. The Ambassador chairs a multi-agency Democracy Committee that develops and implements democracy and human rights promotion activities, in consultation with Angolan and international non-governmental organization (NGO) partners.

The Ambassador established the Democracy Small Grants program to provide flexible funding to grassroots NGOs. Through USAID and programs such as the Democracy and Human Rights Fund (DHRF) small grants and the Ambassador's Self-Help Fund, the Embassy supported local NGOs in promoting human rights, including awareness of prisoner's rights, legal advocacy, and the establishment of a civil rights information center.

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2002 the Embassy provided \$200,000 to local groups to hold forums, town meetings, and seminars aimed at increasing public contributions to Angola's constitutional revision process. As part of this activity, 1,350 radio programs on constitutional and human rights were broadcast in Portuguese and in five local languages, reaching more than 1.3 million people.

Given the importance of free and fair elections in the development of accountability and the protection of human rights, the Embassy allocated \$2.5 million of its Economic Support Funds (ESF) to support the National Democratic Institute, International Republican Institute, and the International Foundation for Electoral Systems in creating viable political and electoral structures. In FY 2002, these Consortium for Elections and Political Party Strengthening (CEPPS) partners published a comprehensive report outlining the tasks and schedule for establishing a legal framework for elections, initiating campaign and election monitor training, and promoting election transparency that would meet international standards. The report was well received by the Government, opposition political parties, and civil society as blueprint for achieving free and fair elections.

As elections approach, the U.S. is providing \$300,000 for independent broadcaster Radio Ecclesia to expand its broadcasting capabilities to provinces outside Luanda in time for the next election cycle. Funds are being used to support the installation of up to 16 FM repeater stations that will expand Radio Ecclesia's ability to broadcast programs nationwide



and bring the FM signal to over 85 percent of the Angolan population. The broadcasts provide wider access to information related to human rights, civic education and good governance. Members of Angola's civil society have called Radio Ecclesia a key player in bringing democracy to the country. The Embassy also provided \$500,000 to Voice of America's Linha Directa service, which provides an important alternative source to the government-controlled radio broadcast news. The U.S. is also providing \$300,000 to media outlets so they may purchase newsprint for independent weekly newspapers. The Public Diplomacy section of the Embassy assisted media through the international visitor program, U.S. speakers, and information dissemination.

In addition, the Embassy provided technical assistance, training, and grants to improve citizens' capacity to advocate effectively for children's right to education, rights to housing for internally displaced women, and rights to confidentiality and employment for people living with HIV/AIDS. Civil society coalitions organized 225 advocacy campaigns, seminars, and workshops that reached 104,000 people in FY 2002. Since the campaigns began, the Government adopted the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Regional Code on HIV/AIDS as a basis to protect the rights of workers living with AIDS, paid customs duties for 68 tons of primary school books that were held in port for over two years, and distributed land and building materials to 4,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs).

Land tenure is a vital component of Angola's future stability as millions of ex-combatants, IDPs, and refugees return home. In FY 2002 the Embassy supported the work of a local civil society-based land tenure coalition to raise awareness and increase public input in the draft land tenure law. The coalition successfully pressured the Government to consult with NGOs and Angolans about the draft law and to extend the public comment period. Following a recent coalition-sponsored conference on the law, participants said the Government increasingly understands that it must work with others to develop an acceptable law.

BURKINA FASO

President Blaise Compaore and his party, the Congress for Democracy and Progress, continued to dominate the Government of the Fourth Republic despite gains made by the opposition in the May 5, 2002 legislative elections, which were considered substantially free and fair by international election officials. In 1998 President Compaore was reelected to a second seven-year term. The Government's human rights record remained poor, and although the Government continued attempts to improve its human rights performance, it continued to commit abuses. The security forces were responsible for numerous extrajudicial killings and continued to abuse detainees; a general climate of impunity for members of the security forces continued to be a problem. During the year, there were credible reports that security forces summarily executed suspected criminals, and prison conditions remained harsh. Arbitrary arrest and detention were problems, and authorities

did not provide detainees with due process. Courts were subject to executive influence, and authorities did not ensure fair trials.

To address those human rights problems, the U.S. Government has used a combination of advocacy and program support to draw attention to international human rights norms, to emphasize accountability and transparency in government, and to nurture a large and active but under-financed community of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) engaged in the promotion of human rights and democracy.

The Embassy's pro-active application of diplomatic pressure on the Government, along with criticism and publicity campaigns by human rights associations, resulted in a sharp decline in the extrajudicial killings of criminal suspects by the country's police in 2002. To improve prison conditions in the country, the Mission used \$10,000 in Democracy and Human Rights Funds (DHRF) and Public Diplomacy (PD) funds to sponsor a workshop raising awareness of the country's harsh prison conditions. Following that workshop, the country's minister of justice committed himself to addressing this problem through a number of initiatives. To aid the administration of justice, the Mission used a \$3,000 DHRF grant to help equip a number of local tribunals in the interior of the country with photocopiers and typewriters.

To foster freedom of the press, Embassy-funded programs over the past several years have involved the training of journalists in investigative reporting and coverage of political campaigns and elec-

tions. In addition, the Mission used a \$3,500 DHRF grant to sponsor awards for journalists who have published articles involving investigative journalism.

Focusing on democracy promotion through electoral reform, Embassy programs have brought together political parties to foster consideration of necessary electoral reforms and the financing of the National Independent Electoral Commission. To support political reform, the Ambassador met with opposition parties to encourage them to fully participate in the ongoing political reform process and to cease their ongoing election boycotts. Those efforts paid off handsomely during the 2002 legislative elections. Both international and national observers stated that the elections were free and fair, with no serious fraud or harassment reported. In addition, all opposition parties participated in the 2002 legislative elections and quadrupled their representation, taking 49 percent of the seats. For the first time since multiparty politics were restored in 1992, the country has a genuinely pluralist legislature.

To educate citizens on human rights and bolster civil society, the Embassy used the DHRF and PD grant funds to produce radio programs on human rights, democracy and the electoral process. It supported local associations that promote human rights, the development of the judicial system, and the rights of women. The Embassy also funded programs focusing on the rights of handicapped persons. In 2002, as part of the International Visitor Program, the Embassy sent to the U.S. for training a number of professionals in the areas of democracy, good governance, conflict resolution, HIV/AIDS, civic edu-

cation, and journalism. A number of military and civilian persons have attended programs sponsored by the African Center for Strategic Studies, permitting them to gain insight into the workings of the military in a democratic society.

Through DHRF funding, the Embassy sponsored programs on female genital mutilation, forced marriage, women's and children's rights, the rights of persons with HIV/AIDS, and the problem of social exclusion. In addition to sponsoring these events with program funding, the Ambassador and Embassy personnel have supported the events with their active participation.

To promote religious freedom, the Embassy has sponsored a number of workshops and discussions exploring different religions and the importance of tolerance. The Mission also sent three participants on an International Visitor Program about Islam in a democracy, and participants reported that the visit positively influenced their attitudes. The Mission also regularly meets with the country's Muslim community for discussions and exchanges.

Through Department of Labor funds, the International Program for the Elimination of Child Labor and the country's anti-trafficking in children project (IPEC/LUTRENA) funded a workshop on drafting anti-child trafficking legislation in late 2002. The National Assembly is expected to pass the law by mid-2003.

BURUNDI

The Government of Burundi's human rights record remained poor in 2002 and early 2003, and it continued to commit numerous serious abuses. Security forces continued to commit numerous arbitrary and unlawful killings with impunity. The armed forces killed armed rebels and unarmed civilians, including women, children, and the elderly. The security forces continued to torture, beat, rape, and otherwise abuse persons. Despite some improvements, prison conditions remained very poor in general and sometimes life threatening.

To end the cycle of violence and human rights abuses that gripped the country for more than a decade, the Embassy promoted the Burundian peace process begun in 1997 by regional leaders. From negotiation through ratification to implementation, the Embassy publicly and privately supported the Arusha peace accord. In addition, throughout the implementation process, the Embassy called for non-signatory Arusha combatants to immediately adopt a cease-fire and begin peace negotiations without preconditions. The largest Burundian rebel group, the CNDD-FDD, signed a cease-fire; but another rebel group, the Palipehutu-FNL, still has not.

Notwithstanding the July 2001 agreement to begin a three-year transition period on November 1, 2001, civil war has continued to plague the country. Under the agreement and the October 2001 Transition Constitution, President Pierre Buyoya served as transition president for 18 months, and Domitien Ndayizeye, the secretary general of the