



2006

SOROS FOUNDATIONS NETWORK REPORT





BUILDING OPEN SOCIETIES

SOROS FOUNDATIONS NETWORK
2006 REPORT

About This Report

The Open Society Institute and the Soros foundations network spent \$417,585,000 in 2006 on improving policy and helping people to live in open, democratic societies. OSI worked on issues ranging from human rights, to access to education, to freedom of information, to public health in a variety of ways. These pages describe some of OSI's methods, including advocacy campaigns, court cases, public education, and support for direct services. Mostly the 2006 annual report, in brief items or longer articles, focuses on telling the stories of people who are helped by OSI's work or who are doing the work of helping. Their stories are the reason why OSI spends hundreds of millions of dollars each year in every corner of the world to build societies that open up opportunities for everyone. This report highlights many of the activities and achievements of OSI and the Soros foundations. To learn more, go to www.soros.org.

Building Open Societies:

Soros Foundations Network 2006 Report

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COVER PHOTOGRAPH: Oil rigs loom offshore in Azerbaijan.

PHOTOGRAPHER: Ami Vitale

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Teahouse and street scene, Batman, Turkey.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Looking to Europe for Global Leadership

IN AN IMPORTANT NEW development, the Open Society Institute in 2006 established the European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR). The purpose of the ECFR is to strengthen the role of the European Union as an open society and to influence the EU'S foreign policy so that it promotes the values of an open society internationally, especially in its immediate neighborhood.

One of our reasons for creating the council is the growing tensions within Europe over how to deal with its substantial and, in some places, resentful Muslim minority. Some countries have adopted measures that weaken commitments to civil liberties and that could exacerbate difficulties in integrating minorities. The situation has also fostered xenophobic attitudes that are likely to increase tensions and could result in an escalation of violence. We think it is important to examine the way that Europe treats its minorities and to recommend policies and practices that promote both equal treatment and civic harmony.

Europe must also play a more important role in efforts to develop open societies elsewhere. The declining influence of the United States as a force for the promotion of open societies internationally makes the role of Europe an urgent concern. The dismal performance of the new United Nations Human Rights Council in its first year suggests that it will not make a useful contribution. Nor does it seem that most governments or intergovernmental bodies in other parts of the world will promote open societies. Europe seems the best hope, though it is clear that getting the 27 member states of the European Union to act more cohesively and effectively on behalf of open society principles is no easy task.

The performance of Europe in its treatment of its own minorities and its success in maintaining civil freedom are closely related to its capacity to promote democracy and human rights internationally. One reason for the reduced influence of the United States in promoting open societies elsewhere is that its own violations of rights in the name of the "war on terror," especially its tolerance of torture and its reliance on prolonged incommunicado detention without charges or trial, have undermined America's credibility internationally. Europe's worldwide reputation is not comparably tarnished. Yet unless Europe adheres to open society principles at home, it too will have little standing to promote those principles abroad.

In recent years, the EU Monitoring and Advocacy Program (EUMAP) of OSI has published a number of reports on the treatment of minorities in certain countries of western Europe. These have been well received, particularly in the United Kingdom, where our reports were warmly welcomed both by leaders of minority communities and by government officials. Building on this work, EUMAP is planning to publish reports on Muslims in 11 cities in seven countries. Policies adopted and implemented at a local level often have a major impact. During the riots in France in 2005, for example, Paris and most other large cities suffered severe disturbances while the country's second largest city, Marseille, which has a substantial and influential Muslim population, remained calm.

The ECFR is still in its formative stages. Former Finnish President Martti Ahtisaari has agreed to chair the ECFR and Mark Leonard, a British foreign policy analyst and commentator, has been appointed as executive director. The council is supported by a number of European donors as well as by OSI.

OSI's Geographical Expansion Continues

Also during 2006, OSI and the Soros foundations network continued their geographical expansion. In addition to the expansion of our activities in western Europe, OSI extended its work in three regions: South Asia, the Middle East, and sub-Saharan Africa. In South Asia, we increased our presence in Pakistan, a country where we have been active for a few years. Many of our activities focus on issues that particularly affect women, including equal rights under the law, access to education, and entrepreneurship. We launched a program in Nepal to take advantage of an opportunity to promote democratic development at a moment when a peace process led by civil society ended a brutal war between government forces and Maoist rebels. In Afghanistan, we support programs ranging from legal assistance for the poor to independent media to cultural projects.

A new initiative in the Middle East is the Arab Fund for Arts and Culture with donors from the region joining us in supporting theater, filmmaking, writing, translations, and publishing. Also, during 2006, OSI's Middle East and North Africa program established offices in Amman, Jordan, to maintain close contact with our grantees in the region.

In sub-Saharan Africa, the Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa (OSISA), which has operated in nine countries, extended its work to a tenth country, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where a particular focus will be promoting transparency for the revenues derived from extractive resource industries. OSISA collaborates closely on such issues with the Revenue Watch Institute, a newly established independent body that has taken over the work of OSI's Revenue Watch Program with support from the Norwegian government and the Hewlett Foundation as well as OSI.

The Open Society Initiative for East Africa (OSIEA), which has focused on Kenya, also expanded, launching grantmaking programs in Uganda and Tanzania. Over time, we expect OSIEA to start working in other countries as well. OSI is now active in well over half the countries of Africa. During 2007, we expect to establish an advocacy office in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to represent our African foundations in relations with the African Union.

The creation of the ECFR and the expansion of our work in other regions continues the transformation of the Open Society Institute and the Soros foundations network into a global organization. We are not active in every country but we are now engaged in every region of the world. Our efforts in different parts of the world reinforce and strengthen each other, reflecting the global nature of the struggle for open society.

Aryeh Neier
May 2007



Large numbers of ballots and ballot boxes from the Haitian presidential election were found in Port-au-Prince's city dump amid rumors of election fraud.

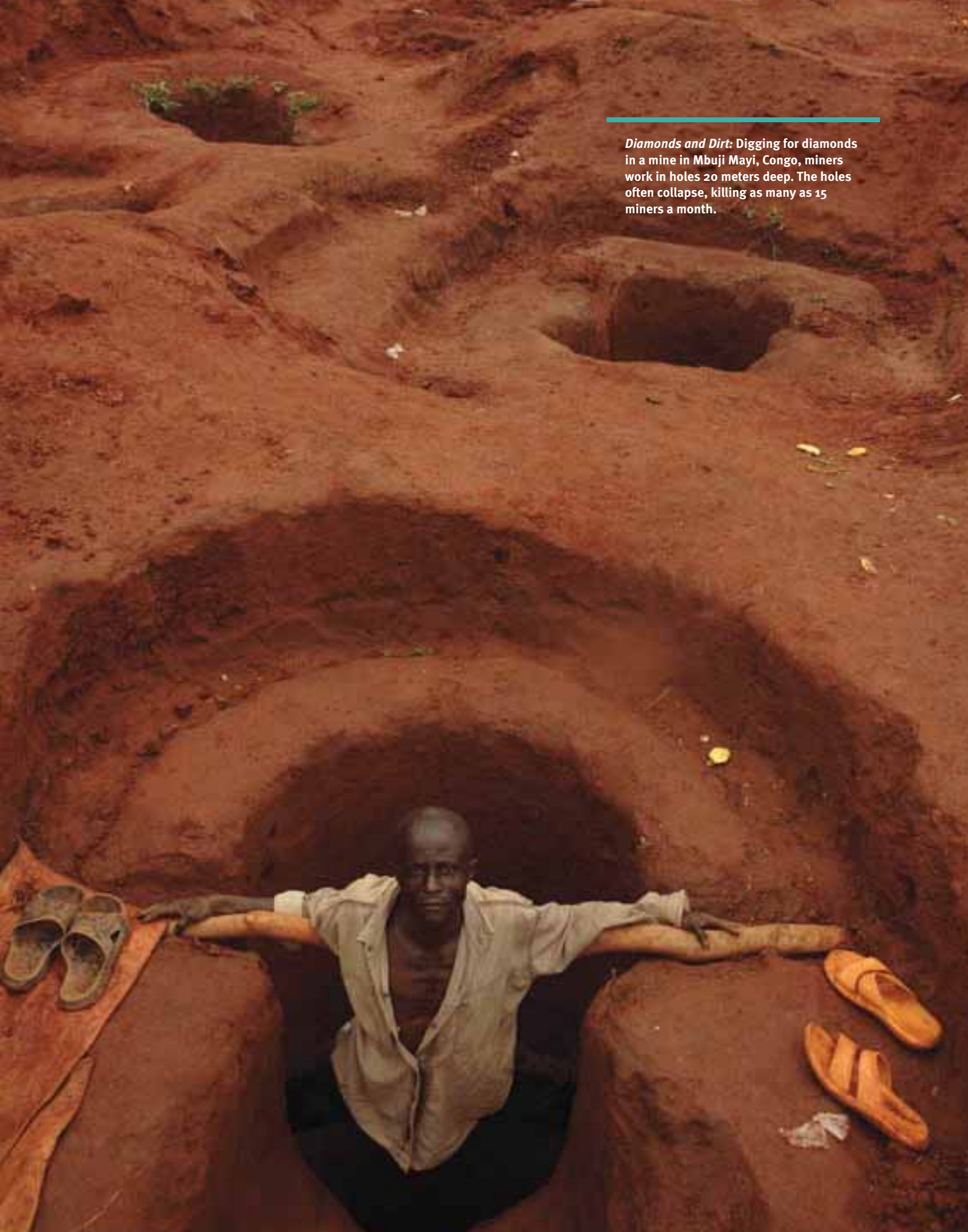


REGIONS

Improving Policy Flawed elections, corruption, and a lack of public services are eroding support for democracy in Africa. But OSI continues to work with civil society to improve the situation. A priority is to monitor the compliance of member states with the African Union's standards of good governance, democracy, human rights, and the rule of law. OSI's Africa Governance Monitoring and Advocacy Project (AfriMAP) also monitors the efforts of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), through which states assess and report on their progress in meeting governance standards. AfriMAP's work with national partners marks the beginning of a continental network of civil society groups committed to monitoring and improving government performance.

Helping People OSI and the Soros foundations help people in Africa by improving policies that affect their lives and by supporting services that empower them to help themselves. In Kenya, OSI helped young people by promoting voter registration and women by training police officers and judges about a new sexual assault law. In South Africa, by challenging pretrial detention procedures, OSI tried to ensure that juveniles would no longer be treated as adults and locked up to await trial. With OSI support, tribal leaders in West Africa improved their management skills, political dissidents in Angola were released from detention, and women in Zambia learned to read and started their own businesses.

AFRICA

A photograph of a man standing in a deep, circular hole dug into the ground. The soil is a rich, reddish-brown color. The man is wearing a light-colored, button-down shirt and dark pants. He is holding a long, curved wooden staff or pole across his shoulders. To his left, a pair of dark sandals sits on the ground. To his right, a pair of light-colored sandals sits on the ground. The background shows the uneven, eroded surface of the mine pit.

Diamonds and Dirt: Digging for diamonds in a mine in Mbuji Mayi, Congo, miners work in holes 20 meters deep. The holes often collapse, killing as many as 15 miners a month.

AFRICA: PROGRAM BRIEFS

AfriMAP

AfriMAP works with Soros foundations and national partners in Africa to research and report on three themes: justice sector and the rule of law; democracy and political participation; and effective delivery of public services. In 2006, it released reports on the justice sector in Malawi and Mozambique with high level officials attending the launch events and keynote speeches by the Minister of Justice in Malawi and a member of the Supreme Court in Mozambique. It also commissioned evaluations of the national implementation of the APRM in Ghana, Kenya, Rwanda, and Mauritius, and helped organize a workshop at the African Union summit in Banjul, the capital of Gambia, that focused on the APRM and on ways that civil society could engage with the process.

East Africa Open Society Initiative for East Africa

Community Groups Learn to Follow the Money

Community groups in politically marginalized areas strengthened grassroots monitoring of how the Kenyan government spends almost \$100 million in special development funds. The funding, started in 2003 to develop schools, health facilities,

roads, and administrative buildings, has been hobbled by corruption, mismanagement, and lack of community involvement. OSIEA responded by developing a manual to help other grassroots organizations with their monitoring efforts.

Rock Concerts Persuade Young People to Vote

Youth Wake Up!, a campaign supported by the foundation, targeted Kenya's 5 to 6 million unregistered voters—most of whom are under 35—by staging day-long music events by well-known Kenyan performers for any young person with a voter ID. Young people without IDs were directed to voter registration tables at event entrances. These events helped register thousands of new voters and mixed entertainment with messages about voting and nonviolent political activism.

Civil Society Trains Police to Enforce Law Against Sexual Offenses

The foundation worked with civil society to ensure quick implementation of a new sexual offenses law in Kenya, where 30 to 60 percent of all women and girls have been victims of rape or other acts of sexual assault. The law, which prescribes specific sentences for a wide range of sexual offenses, is a significant improvement over previous legislation that addressed rape as a moral issue rather than

a criminal assault. Civil society focused on training police, public administrators, and judicial personnel, and on public outreach to increase reporting of incidents.

Youth Radio Receives License to Broadcast to 1 Million People

Koch FM is a tiny community radio station formed by eight youths who grew up amid poverty and illiteracy. After months of delay, the station, housed in two soundproofed shipping containers, received a license to broadcast community programming in Korogocho, one of Nairobi's largest and most violent slums. Despite its 2 km radius, the station is likely to reach 1 million listeners in the densely populated area. The volunteer station will broadcast music and public service programming produced by youth on HIV and other health topics, gender issues, and political participation.

South Africa Open Society Foundation for South Africa

New Effort Attempts to Improve War Crimes Prosecutions

A South African policy institute, supported by the foundation, brought international and African experts together to devise strategies for improving African states' participation in the International Criminal Court. The meeting



Rolling Waters: A woman transports water in a can by rolling it along the ground during the drought in Kenya.

reviewed the experience of African states in prosecuting international crimes such as genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes, and resulted in the formation of a network to strengthen cooperation between the African Union and the ICC. Key issues included prioritizing the prosecution of sexual abuses as international crimes, and guaranteeing services and protection for trial witnesses.

Civil Society Challenges Pretrial Detention for Juveniles

The foundation worked with NGOs to develop new approaches to South Africa's juvenile justice system,

which ignores international and domestic conventions by treating juveniles as adults, depriving them of adequate food, clothing, education, and medical care during long pretrial detentions. A conference cohosted by the foundation resulted in UN children's rights officials and members of local NGOs urging the government to find alternatives to dealing with youth offenders and not to compromise children's rights in favor of "tough on crime" policies.

Mandatory Sentences Have Little Impact on Crime Rates

Nine years of mandatory minimum sentencing policies in South Africa

have had little impact on crimes such as rape and robbery, according to foundation studies. While murders declined by about 22 percent between 1997 and 2005, both rapes and robberies increased during this period. The results provide a strong basis for sentencing reform and support claims by experts that mandatory minimums prevent judges from issuing fair case-by-case sentences.

Southern Africa

Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa

New Media Outlets Offer Alternative Views

The Southern Africa foundation contributed \$2 million to a civil society organization for the creation of new media outlets that provide alternatives to government-controlled media and offer independent coverage of important political, economic, and cultural issues. The Southern Africa Media Development Loan Fund established radio and TV stations in Mozambique and Namibia, and autonomous daily newspapers in Botswana, Lesotho, and Zambia. The fund also helped purchase printing presses for emerging publications in Tanzania, Lesotho, Zambia, and Botswana.

Diverse Groups Confront the Language of HIV/AIDS

People living with HIV/AIDS, health care workers, journalists, women's rights advocates, and religious leaders met in Malawi for a unique discussion about the intersection of HIV/AIDS, language use, and stigma. In Malawi, for example, people with HIV/AIDS are often referred to with a phrase meaning "indiscriminate spreader of disease." Participants at the three-day conference, supported by the foundation, explored strategies for promoting more positive language to change public perceptions of people living with HIV/AIDS.

Civil Society Wins Release of Angolan Political Detainees

The foundation worked with human rights groups and local lawyers to win the release of several political detainees, including activist Raul Danda from the oil-rich Cabinda

province of Angola. The government arrested Danda for defaming the president and possession of documents regarding negotiations between the government and Angolan rebels. The civil society groups pressured the government into releasing the detainees by drawing international attention to the government's lack of evidence and failure to provide appropriate representation for the defendants.

NGO Defeats Government's Sexist Anti-AIDS Campaign

A Swaziland civil society advocacy group successfully challenged a government anti-AIDS campaign that inaccurately described promiscuous women as the primary source of the country's HIV/AIDS problem. SWAPOL, an NGO supported by the foundation, organized public rallies and presented petitions to the Ministry of Health and the national HIV/AIDS council condemning the

Children in Custody: Four boys sit on their beds in a home for juveniles in Freetown, Sierra Leone. Most juveniles convicted of serious offenses are sent to an adult prison.



campaign's sexist emphasis on women while largely ignoring the role of promiscuous men in the spread of HIV/AIDS. The agency initially denied the sexism charges but continued civil society protests prompted the government to end the campaign.

Centers Help Women Develop Businesses and Raise Children

Four newly constructed community centers in Mazabuka, Zambia, initiated programs emphasizing early childhood development, health, income, and literacy as keys to ending poverty and promoting community development. The new centers, built by a community organization supported by the foundation, provided safe places for women to develop their own businesses, take adult literacy classes, and receive nutrition and health care for their children.

West Africa

Open Society Initiative for West Africa

New Institute to Strengthen Civil Society

The West Africa foundation established a new institute to improve the abilities and performance of civil society groups as professional, democratic organizations. Launched in Ghana, the West Africa Civil Society Institute addresses a number of key problems hindering civil society organizations in the sub-region—problems such as low levels of professional skills and democratic practices, poor funding

profiles and fundraising strategies, and lack of engagement among civil society organizations and with key public and private sector officials and agencies.

Traditional Leaders Improve Management and Governance Skills

A good governance program helped tribal leaders in West Africa improve the management of land and natural resources in their communities. Traditional rulers received computer, administrative, and fundraising training and participated in a grant-aid scheme that supported community projects initiated by the chiefs. The trainings are part of the foundation's efforts to help chiefs become responsive leaders familiar with both the rules and regulations of their communities and those of the larger state within which they reside.

Civil Society Addresses Women and the Law in West Africa

A conference of legal experts and human rights activists concluded that the region's various systems of customary and constitutional law continue to regard women as subservient to men. A number of countries give priority to customary law practices that discriminate against women in the areas of inheritance and spousal rights. Many states also have not ratified or implemented major international and regional conventions on the rights of women and girls. The conference, which was organized by the foundation, developed strategies for persuading tribal leaders,

communities, and policymakers to reduce discriminatory traditional practices and for focusing on the ratification of international and regional human rights instruments.

Reconciliation Efforts Begin In Liberia

The Liberian Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) began pursuing its two-year mandate to facilitate reconciliation and justice in a country shattered by 14 years of civil war. With funding from the West Africa foundation and the Network Women's Program, the TRC will hold meetings with communities affected by the war, conduct workshops to help women participate in the tribunal, and train staff to investigate cases. By the end of the year, the tribunal had deployed 187 staff to begin taking formal witness statements.

Gender Bias in Nigerian Constitution Challenged

A network of activists supported by the foundation conducted research that revealed significant gender bias and discriminatory language in the country's 1999 constitution. The problems ranged from the almost exclusive use of "he" throughout the document to a lack of provisions addressing the needs of Nigerian women whose foreign husbands want to become Nigerian citizens. Gender activists sent 100-woman delegations to every regional public hearing on the constitution. A significant number of their suggestions were included in the final report on constitutional reform for the national assembly.

CHINA

For 25 years, Edward Burtynsky has documented the man-made transformations civilization has imposed on nature. His current work focuses on China. “In my view,” he writes, “China is the most recent participant to fall prey to the seduction of western ideals—the promise of fulfillment and happiness.” He is frightened by the “mass consumerism these ideals ignite and the resulting degradation of our environment intrinsic to the process of making things to keep us happy and fulfilled.”

Three Gorges Dam Project, Yangtze River
The world's largest hydroelectric dam, slated for completion by 2009, will force the relocation of 1.13 million people.







Deda Chicken Processing Plant, Dehui City
More and more young people are abandoning
subsistence farming for work on assembly lines
in southern and eastern China.



Circuit boards, Guangdong Province
Chinese “recyclers” salvage useable parts
from hazardous e-waste, much of which has
come from North America.









Shanghai
China's booming cities draw tens of millions of migrant workers from the countryside. New construction is destroying old neighborhoods and forcing the eviction of millions of people.

Improving Policy Expanding its work in Asia, OSI is building up civil society organizations to monitor the performance of governments, provide people with access to services such as legal aid, and increase public participation in governance. In countries close to Europe, OSI and the Soros foundations are taking advantage of such initiatives as the EU's European Neighborhood Policy Action Plan to push for democratic reforms. In Southeast Asia, the growing strength of civil society reflects popular concern with corruption. OSI support has contributed to the efforts of regional organizations such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to adopt a human rights charter and include the needs of marginalized people in its deliberations.

Helping People The program briefs that follow describe some of the people OSI is helping: local farmers exploited by major cotton growers in Central Asia, juveniles kept in pretrial detention in Kazakhstan, people with mental disabilities locked away in institutions in Kyrgyzstan, people in Mongolia robbed of government services by corrupt officials, women and young people starting businesses in Tajikistan, and refugees escaping from Burma's military dictatorship. Drawing international attention to human rights abuses, such as the use of child soldiers and rape in conflicts, is an important part of OSI's work in Asia and elsewhere.

ASIA

After the Quake: The October 2005 earthquake in northern Pakistan and India left an estimated 3 million people homeless. The winter hampered relief efforts and recovery.



ASIA: PROGRAM BRIEFS

The Open Society Institute has expanded its efforts in Asia in a number of countries. OSI started working in Nepal in 2006 to support the country's transition to a more open society, providing scholarships for Nepalese graduate students to attend Central European University and for lawyers to take part in the Public Interest Law Initiative's fellowship program. For several years, OSI has provided small amounts of funding for initiatives in China to support the growing field of legal aid and public interest litigation, environmental initiatives, and the work of HIV/AIDS practitioners. One large grant in 2006 went to International Bridges to Justice to support training for criminal defenders. OSI's Public Health, Information, and Debate programs also are working with Chinese colleagues to promote reporting on public health issues, harm reduction methodologies to treat drug users, open access to scholarly journals, and university debate programs. As space grows for civil society groups in Indonesia, OSI has supported the Tifa Foundation in developing a program to build the capacity of small local civil society organizations. The program emphasizes the need for civil society groups to meet the standards for transparency and accountability that they are demanding from the government.

Central Eurasia Project

Abuses in Central Asian Cotton Industry Prompt Scrutiny

The Environmental Justice Foundation (EJF), an OSI grantee, challenged the cotton industry's abuses of the environment and human rights by persuading European clothing retailers to not use Uzbek cotton, and publishing reports that helped maintain the EU's suspension of commercial ties with Turkmenistan.

Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, and other major cotton growers in Central Asia have used child labor, exploited local farmers, and damaged the environment with water- and pesticide-intensive cotton monoculture. EJF's cotton projects are part of an international campaign highlighting the links between human rights abuses and environmental destruction.

Report Examines U.S. Security Assistance in Uzbekistan

The Central Eurasia Project sought to bring human rights issues to new and influential audiences by funding a report by the RAND Corporation that examined U.S. security assistance to transition states, their respect for human rights, and their effectiveness as U.S. allies. The report called for a reexamination of security cooperation with Uzbekistan, where state security units receiving

U.S. support also persecute dissidents and the regime's political opponents.

Shadow Reports Draw UN Attention to Abuses in Turkmenistan

OSI-sponsored shadow reports to UN human rights treaty bodies resulted in the United Nations confronting Turkmenistan for the first time in detail over widespread human rights violations. The reports prompted the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child to express its concern about child labor in Turkmenistan's cotton harvest, and provided the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women with documentation of pervasive gender discrimination in employment and politics.

Afghanistan

NGOs Strengthen Their Role in Transitional Justice

OSI helped advance transitional justice processes and a culture of legal defense in Afghanistan by supporting the establishment of the country's first victims group and establishing a legal internship for law students. The victims group, which will to give war victims greater voice and influence, was the result of recommendations from an OSI symposium on the role of civil society in Afghanistan's transitional justice process. The legal internship, offered by Herat University, will allow law students to work alongside experienced Afghan defense attorneys and help represent clients.

Speaking Up: Women in Pakistan rally against domestic violence on International Women's Day.



Burma **Burma Project**

Film Exposes Human Rights Abuses in Burma

A new video report reveals the everyday terror of villagers living in eastern Burma where the military junta has displaced over half a million people. The film, entitled *Season of Fear: Internally Displaced People Call for International Action*, has been screened at a congressional hearing in Washington, D.C., for a parliamentary meeting at the House of Commons in the United Kingdom, and on university campuses. Produced with OSI support by Burma Issues, an organization based on the Thai-Burma border, the video report has contributed to the growing public awareness of the forced labor, state-sanctioned rape, and use of child soldiers that continues unabated in Burma.

UN Security Council Places Burma on Its Agenda

In September, the UN Security Council voted to formally include Burma on its agenda for the first time in history. OSI's Burma Project played a leading role in the campaign to persuade the United Nations to take up the issue of Burma's military dictatorship and its security threat to the region. It provided funding to international advocacy efforts and grassroots campaigns in Southeast Asia and used OSI's influence and contacts to further the effort.

Regional Parliamentary Group Pushes Democracy in Burma

The ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Myanmar Caucus, a partner organization of OSI, has become a major force in affecting both regional and international policy on Burma. The group, which includes members of parliament from Cambodia, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, the Philippines, and Indonesia, supports a peaceful transition to democracy in Burma and the release of its 1,100 political prisoners, including detained Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi.

Tech Trainings Strengthen Burmese Democracy Movement

With OSI support, the Tactical Technology Collective trained technical support providers working within the Burmese democracy movement. The project kicked off with a week-long “tech skills knowledge sharing” workshop in Chiang Mai, Thailand, for 20 Burmese technology support staff.

Cambodia

Southeast Asia Initiative

Community Justice Project Provides Dispute Resolution

The pilot Community Justice Project in Cambodia trained three grassroots dispute resolution panels with support from OSI’s Southeast Asia Initiative. Many people in Cambodia, especially in the rural areas, settle their disputes outside the courts because they lack access to the legal system. The project, an initiative

of the Community Legal Education Center, improves access to justice for disadvantaged communities, increasing people’s confidence in the rule of law and the courts. The success of the project, renamed the Access to Justice Program, has prompted government officials to express interest in replicating the project throughout the country.

Kazakhstan

Soros Foundation–Kazakhstan

Government Refuses Access to HIV/AIDS Funding Information

Local NGO researchers reported that health departments in four out of six regions refused their requests for information about HIV/AIDS spending. With support from the foundation and OSI programs, the NGOs wanted the information for an analysis of how the government used national and Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria resources to combat HIV/AIDS. The refusals prompted civil society groups to develop access to information lawsuits.

New Transparency Requirements for Oil, Gas, and Mineral Companies

Analyses by Oil Revenues–Under Public Oversight!, an NGO coalition organized by the foundation to examine implementation of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) in Kazakhstan, prompted the government to issue decrees on transparency. The most significant decree was a new

requirement that all oil, gas, and mineral extraction companies bidding on new contracts in Kazakhstan must sign the EITI.

Project Keeps Juveniles Out of Jail

A four-year pilot project involving civil society groups and law enforcement officials produced reductions in the pretrial detention of juveniles and increases in the use of alternatives to imprisonment. As a result of the project’s work, only 68 out of 485 juveniles accused of crimes went to jail before appearing in court, and the charges in 131 cases were dropped. The foundation-sponsored project obtained alternative punishments for two-thirds of the 91 juveniles who received criminal sentences.

Kyrgyzstan

Soros Foundation–Kyrgyzstan

Policymaking Benefits from Diversity Awareness

The foundation initiated diversity awareness training for public servants to help government agencies respond fairly and effectively to Kyrgyzstan’s many ethnic, economic, and cultural groups. Civil society organizations, local government representatives, and leaders from ethnic communities worked with the foundation to develop diversity management handbooks for local officials. The foundation conducted six workshops for 120 public servants, and prepared 12 trainers to educate public servants region-wide about diversity management practices.

Forum Challenges Mistreatment of Mentally Disabled People

A forum organized by the foundation devised national mental health care policies to replace abusive Soviet-era practices. Kyrgyzstan has at least 50,000 people with mental disabilities, almost all of whom are simply medicated and isolated in psychiatric hospitals. Forum participants recommended that the government emphasize community- and family-based prevention and treatment programs that do not stigmatize the mentally disabled.

Show of Force: Police outnumber spectators at football game in Uzbekistan. OSI stopped work in the country in 2004 after the government revoked the foundation's registration.

Malaysia **Southeast Asia Initiative**

Malaysian Project Offers Legal Literacy Training

A project of the Education and Research Association for Consumers in Malaysia engages communities in learning about human rights, legal processes, and dispute resolutions options and skills. It provides legal counseling and legal literacy training programs for community leaders and youth. Groups identified by the project, such as Indian migrant plantation workers, are less legally literate and more vulnerable to discrimination and abuse than others in Malaysia.

Mongolia **Open Society Forum**

Public Benefits from Improved Oversight of Mining Industry

Civil society groups working with the forum and the Revenue Watch Institute, both of which receive OSI support, engaged in activities that resulted in revision of the national mining law, new natural resource tax policies, and progress toward full implementation of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI). The changes will increase the state's share of royalties and taxes from increasingly profitable mining operations and provide more money for local





Temple Dog: Kratarn Harntalay, 12, photographed this dog as part of an OSI-supported project by InSIGHT Out! in Thailand after the tsunami. The temple is home to injured and abandoned animals.

efforts to provide wheelchairs to impoverished disabled citizens.

Officials Required to Disclose Income for First Time

Anticorruption efforts received a significant boost with passage of a new anticorruption law requiring government officials for the first time to disclose their assets and income. Official statements about assets and income will be published in the legislative quarterly and will also be available on the Internet. The forum contributed to these efforts by advocating that the law include regulations for conflict of interest and asset disclosure.

development programs. Mining companies are compensated with lower taxes but have to publicly disclose sales figures and other financial information in accordance with EITI requirements.

People with Disabilities Obtain Better Services

Monitoring of social services for people with disabilities revealed problems ranging from disrespectful

treatment by social workers to inaccessible agency office buildings. The Tumor Foundation, an NGO supported by the forum and founded by disabled citizens, presented its monitoring findings through newspaper articles and interviews. The government responded by making offices accessible to the disabled, forming a social welfare committee to work with disabled constituents, and considering new

Pakistan

Earthquake Response Increases Public Participation in Governance

A network of 200 local organizations coordinated by the Omar Asghar Khan Development Foundation spent much of 2006 providing shelter, blankets, stoves, and heating oil to 25,000 households devastated by

an earthquake in 2005. The effort, supported by OSI, also sought to build the capacity of grassroots civil society organizations. It was the first phase of a longer-term program to help local communities and marginalized groups monitor the government's reconstruction efforts, increase their participation in governance, and improve coordination and communication among the federal government, faith-based organizations, and NGOs to meet local needs.

Tajikistan **Open Society Institute** **Assistance Foundation–** **Tajikistan**

Project Provides Internet to Dushanbe Schools

Internet for Schools, a joint project of OSI, NATO, and UNDP, prepared 20 trainers to provide computer skills to 600 teachers and students in 55 secondary schools, helping to bring Internet connectivity and staff training to the majority of schools in Dushanbe. Teachers and students said that the project increased collaboration among educators and provided students with crucial experience for further studies in website and software design.

Country's First Master's Degree in Public Health Launched

OSI worked with partners in Lithuania and Russia to establish Tajikistan's first master's degree in public health. The two-year program, which has the full support of the ministries of health

and education, provides training for program faculty, curriculum development support, classroom renovations, and funding for a public health library.

Youth Compete for Credit to Start Businesses

In a competition for university business students, OSI provided matching funds for credit from Tajikistan's microfinance bank to support the business plans of young entrepreneurs, a group often considered as too high risk by most lenders. Winning business plans included start-up proposals for a student café, a travel agency, and an environmentally sensitive mushroom farm. Students will also receive special microfinance classes at universities.

Microfinance Helps Women Overcome Poverty

OSI helped over 30 women lift themselves out of poverty by establishing successful businesses such as a fruit preserves operation, an eyewear store, a pottery workshop, and a bed and breakfast. The pilot project, with OSI partnering with a French NGO receiving EU funding, supplied training and materials on tax policy and applying for loans, and technical expertise to 50 woman-operated projects. Thirty-three of the projects have become profitable and self sustaining. The jam and jelly entrepreneur, formerly a low-paid teacher, employs 30 women and plans to help other women run their own businesses.

Thailand **Southeast Asia Initiative**

Web Daily Offers Forum for Alternative Voices

OSI supports the efforts of *Prachathai*, an independent Thai-language, daily web newspaper, to provide the public with reliable news and diverse viewpoints during an era of serious curbs on the freedom and independence of Thai news media. In only a few years, *Prachathai* has doubled its readership, recruited over 40 civil society columnists, and formed partnerships with two local newspapers to cover the conflict in the south. It has gained prominence among Thai intellectuals and activists for its stories and online reader discussions.

Young People Exhibit Photographs after Tsunami

With OSI support, InSIGHT Out! in Thailand initiated a multimedia training project for youth in Aceh, Indonesia, and Thailand affected by the Asian tsunami. The youth presented their photographs in their local communities in Aceh and southern Thailand and at an international exhibition in Bangkok. The project also received media attention, including features in the *Asian Wall Street Journal*, *National Geographic Magazine*, CNN World Report, and Star TV.

Improving Policy The Open Society Institute supports the efforts of the European Union, national governments, and NGO partners to strengthen democracy and open society values and practices. OSI seeks to ensure public participation in debates and decisions affecting people's lives. Ten Central and Eastern European countries have recently joined the EU, others such as Croatia, Macedonia, and Turkey are candidates, and still others want to become candidates. In these countries and throughout Europe, the EU's social and political standards stimulate change and help OSI continue its efforts to improve governance, the rule of law, human rights, education, media, and public health.

Helping People The story that follows on page 33 is about how OSI is helping people such as Milica Čičić, who is learning to live in the outside community after years in a Croatian institution for people with intellectual disabilities. OSI plays a leading role in creating and funding programs to assist disabled people, Roma, women, and others who are still treated as less than full citizens in many European countries. Program briefs, starting on page 37, describe some of OSI's 2006 activities and achievements. The activities ranged from monitoring and improving Bulgarian police performance to supporting a Romanian community fighting an open-pit mining company.

EUROPE

PEOPLE WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES:

LIVING AS EVERYONE ELSE DOES



Milica and Božidar Čičić.

MILICA ČIČIĆ RECALLS it raining on the day she and her elder sister entered the main gate of the Center for Rehabilitation. On their right, beyond the rim of their dripping umbrella, were a guardhouse of dirty white stucco, a watchman's eyes, and a statue of a woman cradling a child. Čičić was afraid. Her sister was crying and tried to be reassuring: "It's a school, Milica. They'll teach you to read and write."

Čičić was 15 years old on that rainy day in 1977. She had never been to school, and the center provided her no schooling she can remember. Even now, Čičić knows little about numbers. She cannot scrawl the letters MILICA ČIČIĆ. And because she cannot gauge the passage of time, from the moment of her sister's farewell Čičić's days mashed together like lumps of clay in the activities room. Wake-up at six. Breakfast. Crafts, perhaps music. Lunch. Maybe a walk around the grounds. Dinner. Arguments and fights. Punishments: head shavings, days of lockup, days of having to wear pajamas instead of clothes. Once an inmate tried to fix an iron without unplugging the cord and died of electrocution. After that it was: "Don't touch the irons." "Don't touch the television." "It's nine." "Everyone to bed."

Čičić cannot say exactly how long it has been since she left the Center for Rehabilitation. (It was during 2001.)

She is one of more than 100 people who have built new lives in the world beyond the front gate of the center and other institutions like it across Croatia. They were assisted by the Association for Promoting Inclusion, an organization working to close the Center for Rehabilitation and similar state institutions and to redirect their public funding into programs that reintegrate former residents into society with full human rights.

The disabled endured mockery, abuse, homelessness . . .

A professor at Zagreb University who specializes in rehabilitating people with intellectual disabilities, Borka Teodorović, manages the Association for Promoting Inclusion, which receives support from the Open Society Mental Health Initiative. Teodorović says that for centuries people like Čičić suffered terribly. Some families rejected them; other families were unable to give them adequate protection and care; some loving caregivers died and left them with no one. And in the world outside the family, disabled people endured mockery, abuse, homelessness, hunger, and castigation as vessels of demons or souls condemned by God.

During World War II, Nazi Germany chose to exterminate disabled people in an attempt “to strengthen the nation.” After the war, communism came to Eastern Europe. Efforts began to institutionalize and educate people with intellectual disabilities with a view toward someday allowing them to return to society. In too many instances, however, these institutions failed to educate, train, and return their residents to society. Too often, they cut their residents off from their families and barred them from social contacts in the outside world. In many cases, these institutions became expensive life-long warehousing facilities for human beings.

Several decades ago, the developed countries of the West began undertaking successful efforts to reintegrate people with intellectual disabilities into society. Now, the countries of Eastern and South Eastern Europe are following the same course, and the Open Society Institute is assisting their efforts.

“People with intellectual disabilities are among the most marginalized and neglected segment of the population of these regions,” says Judith Klein, director of the Open Society Mental Health Initiative. She has carried the idea of inclusion into Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, where tens of thousands of people are locked away. “These people have significantly less ability to advocate on their own behalf,” Klein says, “and this, in part, has led to a history of massive institutionalization that is contrary to the principles of an open society and a violation of human rights.”

“None of these people should be locked away.”

Liberating intellectually disabled people from institutions requires altering the attitudes of parents, political leaders, some professionals and members of the government bureaucracy managing these institutions, and the general public. “We are about 30 years behind,” Teodorović says of Croatia, which has about 4,500 intellectually disabled people in institutions countrywide. “The ministry here has not reached the conclusion that it has to change things. The bureaucrats say they favor inclusion, but they create barriers. They have a plan, for instance, to build five new buildings at the Center for Rehabilitation to house about 125 residents who have the most severe disabilities; the remaining 260 or so residents, they would like to deinstitutionalize. We disagree. We believe it doesn’t matter that the institution is great, if it is new and clean. None of these people should be locked away.”

“The people living with the worst disabilities will need more assistance in a community setting than the others,” Teodorović says, “but the community can and should bear the costs, because the alternative deprives them of their human rights.”

Čičić remembers a team from the Association for Promoting Inclusion asking whether she wanted to leave the Center for Rehabilitation: “They said I would have my own bed, that I would work, that I would earn money and be able to keep it.”



Božidar Kobasić and Ankica Mesarić.
Kobasić was institutionalized for 26 years,
and Mesarić for 37. They have spent the
last eight years living in the community.

“They treated us like children. But we are not children.”

“I understood that when I came out I would have to try hard but that I could live as everyone else does,” she says. In the center, “they treated us all as if we were children. They used to call us children. But we are not children. I am a grown woman. But there any relationship with a man was considered shameful.”

Čičić’s integration proceeded in steps. At first, she shared an apartment with a round-the-clock attendant. Later, she married and moved into a flat of her own. Today, she holds the keys that unlock the main entrance to the apartment house where she resides. A social worker makes periodic visits. An assistant takes Čičić and other members of the program to shop in groups. Her husband, another former resident of the Center for Rehabilitation, works for a company placing labels on retail body-care products. Čičić handles the cooking: “I like to make everything, fried chicken, soup, strudel, eggs. And my husband is very satisfied.”

Milica Čičić and the other citizens of Croatia with intellectual disabilities have an advocate in Zdenka Petrović. She is president of South Eastern Europe’s first nongovernmental organization run by developmentally disabled people dedicated to lobbying on their own behalf and demanding respect for their human rights. Petrović knows the loneliness, fear, and mistrust of life inside an institution.

“They said we were of no use to anyone.”

Petrović was abandoned at birth in 1965 and placed in a home for children. She eventually lived in a foster family for several years before being institutionalized in 1974. She wanted to go to school, but never got a chance. In 1998, Borka Teodorović approached Petrović, one-on-one, and asked her whether she would like to attempt to live outside the institution. Now, after eight years, Petrović has her own apartment. She works. She has friends and relationships with men. She can read, write, and do arithmetic. At age 41, she is tackling fifth-grade

grammar, reading, math, geography, and history. “I buy what I want,” she says. “I pay my own rent. I receive some social assistance, but I can work and earn money on my own. They always told me I was incapable of working. They said we were of no use to anyone else.”

On July 13, 2005, Petrović appeared as a witness before the Committee on Human Rights of Croatia’s national assembly. She wore a business suit. She enunciated her words clearly, slowly, and with resolve. “My friends who are still in the institution today would also like to come out, they want our help,” Petrović testified. “They want to live independently. And I would recommend that a decision be taken to close down all these institutions and give these people the ability to live independently and work.”

Someday—she hopes it is soon—Petrović will approach the front gates of the Center for Rehabilitation with Čičić and other former residents. They will walk up the driveway alongside an imposing new metal fence and pass the guardhouse of dirty white stucco, the watchman’s eyes, and the statue of a woman cradling a child. And once inside the center, Petrović will approach residents one at a time. She will explain to them the possibilities of life outside. This is exactly how this woman who was told she had nothing to contribute described what she will say:

“I’ll ask them whether they want to go outside. If they say no, I’ll ask why.

“If they say they don’t want to leave, I’ll ask them why it is fine in the institution. If they say it is fine because they have something to eat and a place to sleep, I’ll ask whether they would like to have a place to sleep and something to eat outside.

“If they say they can’t leave, I’ll ask them why they can’t leave. I’ll ask them whether they would like to work and be paid for it. I’ll ask them if they want friends, men and women friends.

“If they say the staff won’t let them, I’ll explain that, once they’re outside, they’ll have their own friends, they’ll decide what to do, what to eat, when to wake up, when to go to bed.

“People are afraid of what they do not know.”

EUROPE: PROGRAM BRIEFS

OSI programs such as the Public Health Program and the Open Society Justice Initiative worked in a number of European countries to improve policies and help people. EUMAP, the EU Monitoring and Advocacy Program, organized meetings to discuss its monitoring report *Television across Europe: regulation, policy, and independence*, which covers 20 countries. The report's findings emphasize challenges to television's importance to democracy, such as media concentration that diminishes diversity of opinion and the loss of public service values. EUMAP initiated a new monitoring exercise looking at "Equal access to quality education for Roma" in nine European states, and a series of background reports on the situation of Muslims in seven European countries.

Albania

Open Society Foundation for Albania

Monitoring Draws Attention to Floundering Roma Strategy

A monitoring report released by the foundation found numerous shortcomings in the implementation of the government's national Roma strategy. The strategy, which was not well planned and did not include the participation of Roma communities, municipal governments, or NGOs in its creation, has done little to address the massive health, education, and employment disadvantages that Roma face. The findings prompted civil society groups to increase their monitoring and advocacy efforts.

Civil Society Opposition Derails Flawed New Laws

At a foundation roundtable, civil society groups reviewed draft laws on anticorruption, nepotism, classified information, and police conduct and found ambiguities that could be misinterpreted or abused, and helped get the bill sent back for further review and revision. Human rights groups supported by the foundation voiced concerns about two proposed laws that sought to fight corruption but instead infringed on fundamental rights. Albania's constitutional court overruled one law and sent the other back to parliament for revision.

Politicians Fail to Keep Their Campaign Promises

A project checking on promises made during election campaigns revealed that political parties had

delivered on only a fraction of their promises. The project, which is led by the foundation, also reported that Albania had the smallest number of female legislators in Europe. These monitoring results were posted on the project's website along with legislators' salaries, attendance records, and legislative voting histories.

Poll Shows Albanians Less Optimistic about Joining the EU

An annual public opinion survey, conducted by the Albanian Institute for International Studies and funded by the foundation, revealed increasing pessimism about European Union integration. In 2006, only 40 percent of respondents thought Albania would join the EU in less than a decade, a huge drop from 80 percent a year before.

University Establishes Ethics Code

The University of Elbasan created a code of ethics, with foundation support, for dealing with bribes, gifts, university resources, confidentiality, employment practices, and conduct by faculty, administrators, and students. The ethics code, based on American and European models, gives fair consideration to the interests of all university community members.

Armenia

Open Society Institute Assistance Foundation–Armenia

Government Legalizes Methadone Treatment

Civil society efforts to confront the dangers posed by the rising use of intravenous drugs resulted in the government legalizing methadone treatment throughout Armenia. The foundation, OSI's International Harm Reduction Development Program, and a local grantee helped the government prepare protocols for narcological care, guidelines for methadone treatment, and the logistics of administering methadone programs.

Voters Get Better Media Coverage of Campaigns

The foundation addressed the lack of objective and independent media by helping develop TV programming that gave all the country's political actors opportunities for media coverage leading up to crucial parliamentary elections in 2007.

With funding from UNDP, the foundation helped produce candidate debates and panel interviews for TV stations throughout the country that went beyond one-sided sound bites and provided Armenians with substantive discussion of key issues.

Coalition Preserves Media and Civil Society Independence

The Partnership for Open Society, a coalition of 60 NGOs supported by the foundation, helped prevent the adoption of a draft law that would have restricted civil society advocacy activities. The partnership also helped civil society prevent TV and radio law amendments that continued government control over the national broadcasting board.

Centers Bring Computer Access to the Blind

A new computer system at 10 school-based communications centers supported by the foundation allowed blind and visually impaired people to use computers. The system, called AREV ("sun"), uses text-to-speech technology to produce audio broadcasts of text information displayed on the computer screen. Arev users can visit websites, correspond via email, and listen to online broadcasts of Armenian books and other printed information.

Azerbaijan

Open Society Institute Assistance Foundation–Azerbaijan

Press Council Reprimands Progovernment Paper

The Azerbaijan Press Council ruled that a progovernment paper lacked evidence for asserting that organizers of an antigovernment demonstration advocated government sabotage and paid demonstration participants. In a decision reported in leading print media, the council warned the paper to do a better job of abiding by the country's code of journalistic ethics. The council, a regulatory body created by Azerbaijan's news media with a foundation grant, reviewed over 200 complaints against media outlets, resolving 115 cases and dismissing 79 as groundless.

Alternative Women's Report Raises Questions

A local NGO, supported by OSI's Women's Program, presented a shadow report on the situation of women in Azerbaijan at the UN's 37th annual session to counter a government report on compliance with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. The report highlighted the paucity of Azeri women as political participants and leaders, and the lack of measures against domestic violence and legal protections for women's reproductive rights.

NGOs Raise Pipeline Concerns with Oil Company

Azeri NGOs presented the British oil company BP with monitoring reports raising concerns in several areas. One report exposed the pipeline's negative impacts on soil, water, and local biodiversity. Another report indicated problems with addressing employee complaints and compensating landowners affected by the pipeline. BP accepted many of the reports' findings and promised to address them. In addition to initiating monitoring, the foundation helped develop a "Transparency Week" campaign to increase public awareness of the importance of openness in industries dealing with oil and other natural resources.

Bosnia and Herzegovina Open Society Fund–Bosnia and Herzegovina

Survey Confirms Segregation in Bosnia's Schools

Schools continue to use separate Bosnian, Croatian, and Serbian curricula, with some rural schools also physically separating children of different ethnicities. But surveys conducted by the foundation also revealed that students are ready for change, feeling that schools are not fostering critical thinking and ethnic pluralism. The foundation's monitoring bolstered civil society efforts to encourage curricula reforms promoting tolerance and multiculturalism.

Report Provides Accounts of War Crimes

A publication on the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia's prosecution of war crimes committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina provided detailed accounts of war crimes and their perpetrators, challenging years of claims that the information did not exist. The foundation published the report and distributed over 3,000 copies across the country and, with the help of the Soros foundation in Serbia, an additional 1,000 copies to Serbian officials and members of the judiciary.

On the Beach: Oil rigs tower over beach umbrellas in Azerbaijan.



Roma Voices Count in Increasing Numbers

"Our Voice Counts," a project initiated by the foundation, informed Roma voters and increased Roma voter turnout. Tracking of 1,500 Roma in the project's target areas indicated a 20 percent increase in Roma voting between the 2004 and 2006 elections. The project helped develop documents conveying Roma community concerns to all political parties, monitored the elections to ensure fair treatment of Roma voters, and assessed political party follow-up on campaign promises.

In Memoriam: Caskets containing the remains of 505 Bosnian Muslims were buried during a ceremony marking the Srebrenica massacre in 1995.

European Standards Produce Mixed Results for Local Governments

Working with the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, the foundation used European administrative standards to evaluate 30 municipalities. The assessment indicated that local governments depended too much on international donors, had uneven levels of administrative quality, and were not sharing information and good practices. On the other hand, many municipalities had formed effective public-private partnerships, developed codes of conduct for officials, and improved municipal asset management strategies.

Bulgaria **Open Society Institute–Sofia**

Monitoring Improves Bulgarian Police Performance

Over a nine-month period, the foundation's 45 volunteers monitored police compliance with legal standards for the treatment of people placed in 24-hour detention. They made unannounced visits to police stations, reviewed documents, and interviewed police officers and detainees. The monitoring revealed that detainees had limited access to health care and some interrogations violated the law. The Sofia police quickly corrected some of the violations, improving detainee



registration and the provision of food. The project demonstrated the potential of independent civilian oversight of the police to protect detainees' rights.

Reports Identify Key Issues for EU Membership

In an attempt to expedite necessary reforms, the foundation implemented civic monitoring on key issues that have slowed Bulgaria's accession process. Presented to the public, civil society groups, and officials in Sofia and Brussels, the reports highlighted the need to address corruption, organized crime, and the pace of agricultural reform. The reports concluded that Bulgaria, though ready for EU membership, must continue pursuing systematic anticorruption and agricultural reform policies.

Media Tour of Urban "Debris" Calls Attention to Better Planning

Like most big cities, Bulgaria's capital, Sofia, faces an array of urban design and planning challenges. To increase public attention to these issues, particularly the public safety and traffic hazards posed by illegal and shoddily constructed advertising billboards and gas stations, the foundation organized a tour of urban "debris" for local journalists. The media coverage prompted widespread discussion among the public and city council members about how to do a better job of urban planning.

Czech Republic **Open Society Fund–Prague**

Czech NGO Campaigns for More Women in Politics

Forum 50%, a foundation grantee, addressed women's lack of political participation by organizing seminars and campaigns to raise public awareness. Within the Czech Parliament, women constitute only 15 percent of the lower house and 11 percent of the upper house. Forum 50% has helped increase the acceptance of women as political leaders, with 69 percent of the public saying women were underrepresented in politics, up from 42 percent in 2002. A majority of Czech citizens now support affirmative action and changes within political parties to increase women's political participation.

Think Tank Advances Higher Education Reform

The Institute for Social and Economic Analyses moved Czech education reform forward by creating a comprehensive proposal for higher education change. With foundation support, the institute organized roundtable discussions and presentations for academics, politicians, the media, and the general public. These efforts helped win support for turning the proposal into legislation from the Conference of Rectors, which represents the leaders of all universities in the Czech Republic.

Estonia **Open Estonia Foundation**

Police Partnership Improves Responses to Domestic Violence

A civil society group and a regional police department, supported over three years by the foundation, has increased awareness about domestic violence among Estonian police officers and improved record keeping and police responses. According to data collected by police officers in the program, women are the victims in 9 out of 10 domestic violence cases. Half of the cases occur in families, and children suffer violence in one-third of these family cases. The number of years domestic violence victims suffered abuse before contacting police dipped from 6–7 years to 3–5 years during the program's existence. Police throughout Estonia are now collecting and feeding domestic violence data into a central database.

Civil Society Group Aids Students Forced to Leave Belarus

With help from the foundation, the Belarus Support Group worked with the Estonian government to create 10 university spaces for Belarusian students expelled from universities for political reasons. Denis, one of hundreds of students targeted by the government for their political views or work as monitors during the fraudulent elections in March 2006, fled Belarus after officials harassed him and threatened to expel him for not joining a progovernment youth organization.

Estonian Film Festival Spotlights Authoritarianism

The Black Nights Film Festival featured a special documentary program, “Closed Societies,” which examined authoritarian regimes in Belarus, Cuba, Russia, and Iran. The program, supported by the foundation, included *You Will Vote for Me!*, a film about the intimidation and fraud that undermined the 2006 elections in Belarus. At a seminar following the films, members of parliament, the Carnegie Moscow Center, and film, labor, and civil society organizations from Europe and Asia, discussed Russia’s increasing authoritarianism.

Georgia

Open Society Georgia Foundation

Former Cop Teaches Beekeeping to Orphans

A former traffic cop received a \$7,000 grant from the foundation to create a beekeeping program at an orphanage. The program provides the children with honey, teaches them the beekeeping profession, and cultivates bees and honey for commercial sale and for sharing with other charities and nonprofits. The foundation’s job retraining project provided grants and business skills training to public servants laid off by structural reform. Of the 1,200 applicants, 100 were chosen, many of them from law enforcement.

Online Library Provides Information on Rights

The National Library of Georgia began work on what will be the country’s first comprehensive and publicly available online library of all civil society–related materials produced or translated in the Georgian language in the last 15 years. The online library project, funded by a foundation grant, will feature materials on human rights, particularly women’s and children’s rights, and principles of religious freedom and democratic governance.

Center Works to Bring Sex Traffickers to Justice

Safe House helped an Uzbek sex trafficking survivor collaborate with Georgian police to pursue Georgia’s first sex trafficking case. The center, a foundation grantee, provides safety and rehabilitation for women caught in the web of human trafficking in Georgia, which is a significant sex and labor trafficking transit route. It has advocated for women arrested in transit by Georgian authorities, helped stranded women get documents, and worked for effective implementation of Georgia’s new antitrafficking law.

Media Council Reviews Disputes over TV Coverage

Georgia’s journalism industry, with foundation support, launched the Media Council to regulate itself and improve journalism standards and practices. After establishing its procedures, the council reviewed complaints by an opposition party leader against a private TV

broadcaster and a citizen against Georgia Public Broadcasting. The Media Council required both TV stations to publicly acknowledge areas where they had violated Georgia’s media conduct code.

NGOs Take Action on Lack of Drug Policies

Georgian NGOs and experts from the Czech Republic, supported by the foundation, developed a comprehensive drug policy plan that proposes harm reduction measures to address public health risks such as the spread of blood-borne diseases like HIV. Drug users constitute more than 62 percent of all identified HIV-positive cases in Georgia. Members of parliament and health professionals reviewed the plan, which was then submitted to the parliamentary health committee and the Ministry of Labor, Health, and Social Affairs.

Kosovo

Kosovo Foundation for Open Society

Minority Communities Participate in Policy Development

Kosovo’s Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities for the first time worked with policymakers at all levels to devise a comprehensive integration strategy. Initiated by Kosovo’s prime minister with support from OSI and the OSCE, the project is developing policies on health care, education, employment, property rights, and refugee and displacement

issues, acknowledging both the common and separate needs of each community. The strategic plan, expected to be completed in 2007, will put Kosovo closer to achieving Decade of Roma Inclusion requirements.

Multicultural Kosovo Defines Its Many Priorities

The foundation helped give Kosovo's multiple ethnic communities a role in shaping policies during final status negotiations. Majority Serb communities advocated for more opportunities for the local development of their economic, health, and education systems. Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities, the country's most vulnerable groups, formed a coalition to represent their concerns about access to education, employment, and public resources while the Bosniak community worked to guarantee their minority rights and preserve the use of their language and customs.

Foundation Organizes Dialogue on Decentralization

The foundation initiated the first public discussion of government decentralization in Kosovo, one of the final and most critical issues in negotiations about the country's status. Forum 2015 and OSI's Local Government Initiative brought together international, government, and civil society actors to discuss decentralization at a conference that was broadcast live on national TV and received significant press and online coverage.

Latvia

Soros Foundation–Latvia

Court Ruling Sets Precedent for Environment and Transparency

Transparency International Latvia, an OSI grantee, successfully argued a landmark environmental and accountability case before Latvia's Supreme Court. The court ordered the dismantling of a residential home built on an environmentally protected sand dune with an illegal building permit. The ruling marks the first time in Latvia that a building project has been reversed based on environmental and good governance standards.

Court Calls Restrictions on Gay Parade Unconstitutional

The Riga City Council prohibited a Riga Pride 2006 parade organized by Latvian gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender rights groups. With support from the foundation, the groups and freedom of expression advocates challenged the council's decision. The challenge lost in local court but on appeal a regional administrative court found the City Council's ban illegal. Latvia's Constitutional Court ruled that a number of the council's restrictions violated freedom of assembly laws and were unconstitutional.

Outcry Over Political Appointments Brings Reforms

Good governance activities supported by the foundation helped document efforts to appoint highly partisan officials to the Constitutional Court and the Ombudsman's Office.

These appointments posed a threat to the power and independence of both offices, which are essential to the rule of law in Latvia. Media coverage brought growing public interest and pressure around the issue, prompting legislation to increase transparency and accountability in the appointments process.

Macedonia

Foundation Open Society Institute–Macedonia

NGOs Persuade Government to Establish FOI Commission

Efforts by 131 NGOs and the foundation resulted in the government establishing a Freedom of Information Commission to implement the country's FOI law and act as an independent appeals body for FOI requests. Foundation monitoring showed that government responses to requests from the public increased from 34 percent to 50 percent since the commission was formed. The government, however, responded more slowly or ignored requests for information it considered sensitive.

Roma Women Get Access to Business Loans

Fikrija Mustafafova started in business with a small stand at an open air market. Today she is running a thriving textile import business thanks to a loan fund established by the foundation and the Foundation Horizonti. By the close of the foundation's involvement at the end

of 2006, the fund had disbursed 350 loans and trained over 430 Roma women, who as group have little or no access to commercial loans.

Roma Children Receive Help in Education

A new foundation project provided educational services to improve academic achievement and reduce dropout rates among Roma schoolchildren. The project offers after-school supplemental lessons, free schoolbooks and supplies, and nutritious food to 1,600 Roma elementary schoolchildren attending 10 majority-population schools. Sponsored by the Dutch embassy, the project also provides training seminars for teachers of Roma students and support for local NGOs that increase Roma parental involvement in their children's education.

Young Entrepreneurs Obtain Start-up Funding

The foundation and the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs awarded funding to seven start-up business plans developed by young entrepreneurs, including a proposal for a travel agency focusing on mountain bike tours and ecotourism in Macedonia that targets travellers from Croatia, the Netherlands, and Slovenia. The Youth Entrepreneurial Services will provide the entrepreneurs with business training, support services, and help launching their businesses.

Moldova

Soros Foundation–Moldova

Court Ruling Strengthens Access to Information

In a case supported by the foundation, the Supreme Court ruled that a state agency had unjustifiably classified its decisions on public expenditures and ordered the decisions to be published in Moldova's official journal. While the information did not reveal any wrongdoing, the case prompted extensive public debate about excessive classification of government documents and spurred other efforts to use the courts to access public information.

Teenagers Take on Tobacco

An advocacy campaign developed by Moldovan NGOs focused on promoting tobacco control policies and making the public, particularly teenagers, aware of the dangers of smoking. The campaign, funded by the foundation and the Swedish Agency for International Development, recruited and prepared teenagers to participate in activities such as establishing 20 smoke-free high schools.

Harm Reduction Expands in Moldovan Prisons

With the help of a local NGO, the Ministry of Justice added needle exchange and methadone treatment programs to two more prisons, bringing the total to 9 out of the 11 prisons where harm reduction programs are possible. By year's end, harm reduction activities had raised

prisoners' awareness and knowledge of HIV and sexually transmitted infections, and increased prison officials' tolerance for HIV-positive inmates.

Civil Society Weighs In on New Domestic Violence Law

The foundation supported meetings for human rights experts, lawmakers, and women's rights advocates to participate in developing the country's first comprehensive domestic violence law. The law's significant features include provision of social services for survivors, rehabilitation for violators, and improvements for the use and accessibility of restraining orders.

Montenegro

Foundation Open Society Institute–Representative Office Montenegro

Civil Society Monitors Montenegro's Journey to Independence

Civil society monitoring helped ensure the fairness of Montenegro's independence referendum in May 2006. The Monitoring Center, supported by the foundation, monitored the administration of the referendum, the campaigning of the political parties, and the voting. International and local observers pronounced the referendum free and fair. Over 86 percent of eligible voters turned out, with 55.5 percent voting for independence, and the government followed this mandate by declaring independence in June.



Fireworks for Independence: Supporters celebrate Montenegro's independence from Serbia after a referendum showed a majority of voters approved.

Poland

Stefan Batory Foundation

Monitoring Exposes Problems in Campaigns and TV Reporting

Local NGOs, monitoring campaigns for municipal office, found that many candidates launched campaigns before the formal start of the campaign season, and many incumbents used municipal funds and resources for partisan political purposes. Governing coalition candidates got 66 percent more speaking time than opposition candidates and 80 percent more coverage on TV news programs. The initial TV monitoring results prompted more balanced TV campaign coverage.

Constitutional Tribunal Appointees Face Public Scrutiny

A project by the foundation, the International Commission of Jurists, and the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights opened the process of appointing judges to public scrutiny. In the past, a small group of parliamentarians elected judges to Poland's Constitutional Tribunal without any public discussion. Under the new system established by the project, the qualifications and legal opinions of six candidates were circulated to the public, and the candidates answered questions at a public hearing.

Region's Governments Meet on Corruption in Education

A conference organized by the foundation provided the first ministerial-level forum for governments in the region to address corruption in education. Education ministry representatives from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, and Serbia reviewed

problems such as academic fraud, unregulated private tutoring, and various forms of bribery and grade extortion among administrators, parents, and students. Participants committed to providing training for administrators and parents, and codes of behavior for teachers and students.



At the Top: Construction workers put up a roof in Romania.

Foundation Program Leaves Philanthropies Stronger

With funding from the Trust for Civil Society in Central and Eastern Europe, the foundation's four-year program helped 18 foundations become sustainable and built local partnerships that provided \$7.5 million for local development. The program also leaves a growing culture of philanthropy in Poland. From 2004 to 2006, the number of taxpayers donating 1 percent of their taxes to public interest organizations nearly doubled to 1.1 million, generating over \$30 million.

Report Helps Ease Border Restrictions

A report on EU border policy helped advocacy efforts to make EU border

procedures less restrictive toward citizens from Eastern Europe and Russia. The foundation presented the report, based on monitoring of practices in 31 EU consulates, at public seminars and to members of the EU parliament and the Polish Foreign Ministry. A number of the report's recommendations were incorporated into new regulations in the European Visa Policy.

Polish Election Monitoring Finds Abuses in Tajikistan

The foundation cooperated with the Polish Foreign Ministry to recruit observers to monitor the 2006 presidential elections in Tajikistan. The monitoring results—presented to the media and published on the foundation's website—concluded

that the elections were marred by abuses of election procedure, including proxy or family voting, inappropriate voter identification, and inaccurate vote counts.

Romania

Soros Foundation Romania

Small Community Fights Government and Big Mining Company

Residents of Rosia Montana in Romania continued their fight against the Canadian-based mining company Gabriel Resources, which for 10 years has attempted to obtain permission to build Europe's largest open-pit

gold mine, complete with dangerous cyanide-laced ponds. A Romanian state-owned mining company is Gabriel Resources' partner, and press reports have revealed that many former and current local officials or their family members have been on the payroll of its local subsidiary. The foundation supported grassroots organizing for over 250 families that do not want to be relocated and helped secure experts to identify socially and environmentally responsible development alternatives.

Romania Works to Give Disabled People More Independence

Foundation support to the National Council of Disability in Romania helped the council's efforts to get a new law on equality of opportunities for disabled people passed in 2006. The law creates facilities and services that will allow disabled people to become more independent and active members of their communities.

Survey Reveals Extent of Romanian Migration

The survey conducted by the foundation showed that at least one-third of all the nation's households have had a family member go abroad since 1989, with 80 percent of these migrants leaving in search of work. The majority of jobs found abroad were in construction for men, housekeeping for women, and agriculture for both sexes. The survey, which also highlighted the impact of remittances on families and communities in Romania, seeks to support policies that maximize

the benefits of migration. It was presented to the Romanian, Italian, and Spanish governments and the International Organization for Migration.

Serbia

Fund for an Open Society—Serbia

TV Series Denounces Milosevic Regime to Wide Acclaim

A documentary TV series supported by the foundation showed how the Milosevic regime used the pretext of defending the national interest to increase its power and unleash ethnic wars across the former Yugoslavia. Ordinary Serbians suffered while the regime and its military, political, and business supporters made fortunes and threatened or killed opponents. The series, which sought to help Serbians confront the recent past, generated huge public demand resulting in three rebroadcasts and the release of a DVD that sold out within a week.

Multiethnic Communities Work Together for Better Governance

The final phase of a project in three multiethnic communities in northern Serbia helped strengthen local ombudsmen and the development of interethnic councils to defend minority rights and advance local policies that carefully consider issues of ethnicity. Croats, Hungarians, Roma, Romanians, Ruthenians, Slovaks, and Ukrainians increased their participation in governance as a result of this joint effort of

the foundation and OSI's Local Governance Initiative.

Reports Show Progress on EU Requirements

The first in a series of reports by civil society groups monitoring Serbia's progress toward EU membership showed improvements in access to information policies, civil society inclusion in developing legislation, and harmonization of legislation with European and international human rights norms and anticorruption standards. While Serbia's lack of full cooperation with the ICTY has suspended its progress toward EU candidacy, the foundation will continue to support civil society monitoring to promote policies compatible with the EU.

Opportunities for Intellectually Disabled People Grow in Serbia

People with intellectual disabilities in Serbia are increasingly living on their own, finding employment, and participating in local communities. Efforts by the foundation and OSI's Mental Health Initiative have persuaded employers such as McDonalds and municipal agencies to commit to hiring the intellectually disabled. One Belgrade project helped two dozen intellectually disabled people live independently in the larger community. These successes have been aided by foundation-supported NGOs that helped develop tax break laws for hiring the developmentally handicapped, and the Serbian government's commitment in 2006 to begin deinstitutionalization.

Slovakia

Open Society Foundation— Bratislava

Freedom of Information “Enemy” Exposed

Slovakia’s former transportation minister, Pavol Prokopovič, was named the 2006 Enemy of Freedom of Information at an annual freedom of information day contest supported by the foundation. Prokopovič won the title because he labeled a telecom privatization deal handled by his ministry as a “state secret” and refused to provide any public information about the deal during his four-year term. The new transportation minister announced at the end of 2006 that the contract would be available for public scrutiny.

Transparency Advocates Make Gains in Local Elections

The Center for Community Organizing, supported by the foundation, conducted a monitoring project that increased transparency in the 2006 municipal elections. During the campaign, the center focused media attention on the fact that the city council was not making public documents like council meeting notes available to the public. The resulting public outcry brought more transparency to the campaign.

Projects for Groups of Women Overlooked by Other Funders

The Slovak-Czech Women’s Fund, founded by Soros foundations in Slovakia and the Czech Republic,

began an initiative to develop services addressing violence against migrant and Roma women. The fund also targeted other areas overlooked by many donors, including the rights of sex workers and the development of Roma women leaders.

A Roma Public Health Project Goes National

The foundation helped establish a new public health worker position that will be based in all of Slovakia’s regional public health offices and eventually employ 140 health workers in Roma communities. The position is the result of previous pilot projects between the foundation and the Ministry of Health. The health workers in these projects helped establish community health centers, which contributed to significant increases in child vaccination rates and decreases in viral infections in a number of Roma communities.

Turkey

Open Society Institute Assistance Foundation—Turkey

Civil Society Efforts Promote EU Membership

The foundation supported efforts to adopt economic and social reforms that will help Turkey meet the EU’s criteria for admission and to ensure a more objective debate in Europe about Turkish membership. OSI commissioned a practical guide showing how joining the EU would change the lives of ordinary people. The foundation also supported the monitoring of debate in the EU

regarding Turkey, research on how EU countries evaluate Turkey, and efforts to base the membership issue on evidence rather than emotions.

Foundation Assistance Strengthens Open Society

A woman who obtained microcredit to buy a used washing machine and start a laundry business. A refugee who received assistance for legal, medical, and housing needs. A civil society activist who improved her organizational skills through a long distance education program. These are just a few of the people helped by the foundation’s efforts to strengthen open society in Turkey through support for women’s participation in public life, political reform, independent media, information technology for democratization, and other initiatives.

Ukraine

International Renaissance Foundation

International Community Commends Free and Fair Elections

Monitoring by NGOs supported by the foundation helped make Ukraine’s 2006 parliamentary elections the most democratic and transparent in the country’s post-Soviet history. NGO campaigns familiarized voters with election issues and procedures and developed measures to hold politicians accountable for campaign promises. Officials from the EU, NATO, and the U.S. government congratulated Ukraine for elections

that met international standards and national laws.

Government and Civil Society Lay Groundwork for Legal Aid

The foundation helped establish a sustainable legal aid program that will make Ukraine's justice system accessible to indigent and marginalized defendants. A joint effort of the foundation, the Open Society Justice Initiative, the Viktor Pinchuk Foundation, and the Ministry of Justice, the legal aid office provides legal advice and representation to defendants unable to afford attorneys. The office is

the first of two pilot centers for the Kyiv region that will provide models for developing a national legal aid system.

A Step Toward Freedom of Information

A Ukrainian human rights journalist won an important legal decision in the first round of efforts to crack the government's control over public information. With foundation support, the journalist sued to review presidential decree documents that the government arbitrarily classified as state secrets. A district court found the classification to be unlawful but has yet to order the government to provide the documents.

New Exams Challenge Corruption in University Admissions

Over 40,000 students took pilot examinations designed to reduce corruption in Ukraine's higher education admissions process. The exams, prepared and administered by the National Center for Educational Quality Assessment with financial and technical support from the foundation, represent an objective challenge to a university admissions process often marked by bribery and extortion. The examinations are a transparent and independent means of determining a student's suitability for university admission as well as graduation from high school.

Democracy in Action: Ukrainians cast their ballots in parliamentary elections.

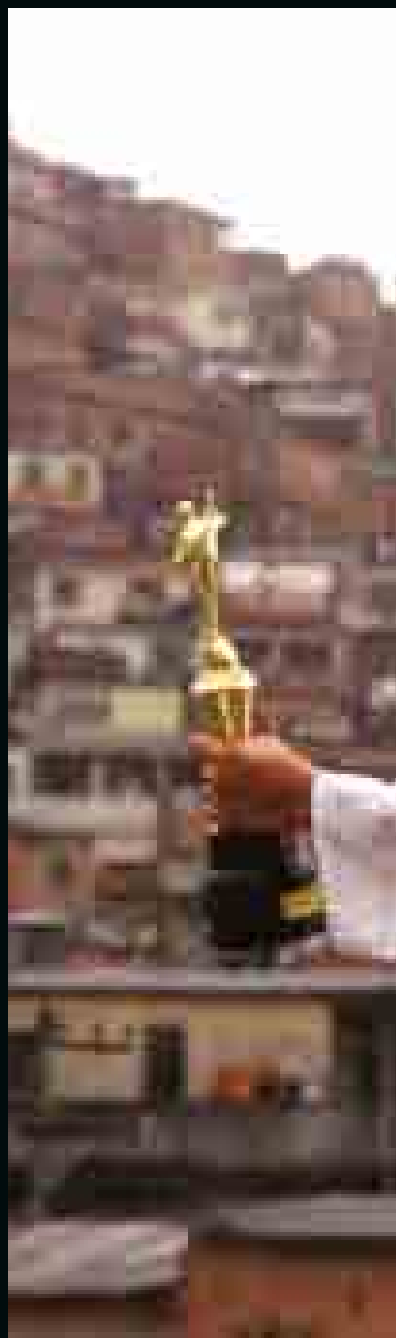


BRAZIL'S FAVELAS

Viva Favela is a collaborative of journalists and photographers who, living in the low-income favelas of Rio, wanted to capture daily life in their communities and change the way people, including residents, viewed the favelas. To bring their photography to the people, they set up exhibitions in the streets, inviting local dance, music, graffiti, and fashion groups to create a big cultural event on opening day. Local business owners displayed the works in front of their stores, storing them inside overnight. The exhibitions also traveled to schools and sports centers.









Improving Policy One of OSI's priorities in Latin America is the promotion of strong regional crime-fighting standards based on respect for human rights. The overall crime rate in Latin America is twice the global average, and the inability of governments to reduce crime, poverty, and inequality is diminishing support for civil liberties and even democratic governance. OSI's Latin America Program seeks to address common problems, including citizen security and corruption, by supporting collaborations among countries and strengthening regional democratic institutions such as the Organization of American States and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

Helping People The Soros foundations in Guatemala and Haiti, as the following pages show, are working to help improve conditions for their countries' people, many of whom are impoverished and marginalized. In Guatemala, the foundation helps women participate in politics and young people cope with violent crime and discrimination. In Haiti, the foundation helps thousands of young people to obtain books by funding community libraries and assists rural villagers to obtain drinkable water by building a new water filtering and distribution system. Both foundations are investing in people as essential to the development of representative and effective democratic institutions.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN



Right to Vote: Haitians vote at a polling station in the country's presidential election.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: PROGRAM BRIEFS

Latin America Program

Anticorruption Campaign Triples Citizen Complaints in Peru

A national campaign against corruption in education tripled the number of reported abuses. The three most common complaints were bribes as a precondition for enrolling students, irregularities and nepotism in employment practices, and unjustified teacher absences and school closings. The Ministry of Education, Peru's ombudsman, and the OSI-supported National Consortium for Public Ethics sponsored the campaign, which resulted in increasing investigations by the ombudsman and more oversight by the ministry. The Latin America Program also supported efforts to promote greater transparency and accountability in public budgets in Mexico and to

raise awareness about government influence on the media across the region.

Commission Will Define Crime Fighting Standards

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, supported by OSI, is preparing a report on citizen security and human rights in the Americas aimed at raising awareness and exerting pressure on member states to abide by regional standards in combating crime. The report is expected to be released in early 2008. OSI supports a regional network of organizations working on citizen security, police reform, and community policing.

Rural Mayors Influence National Decision Making

The Red de Municipalidades Rurales del Perú, a network of over 100 rural mayors, increased the inclusion of municipal officials in discussions with congressmen, ministers, and other central government officials on issues of decentralization,

democratization, and state reform. Civil society organizations, supported by OSI, have strengthened Peru's decentralization process, offering recommendations that led to administrative changes in policies.

Guatemala

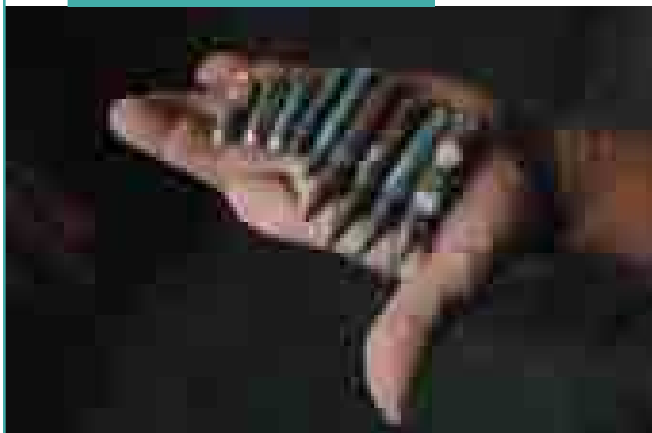
Fundación Soros–Guatemala

Indigenous Women

Take Aim at Political Power

A foundation program to increase women's political participation helped indigenous women join local election boards and prepared nine women to stand as candidates in the 2007 municipal elections. Most program participants were leaders from indigenous women's groups in politically marginalized rural areas that were hard hit by years of war. The program also provided managerial training for women who head local councils and have growing responsibilities for implementing and securing funding for community development projects.

Bullets to Beans: Ten years after the end of civil war in Guatemala, some ex-guerrillas are farming, instead of fighting.



Ethnic Youth Help Each Other Confront Adversity

Youth leaders, with support from the foundation, assisted young people from Guatemala's multiple and often marginalized ethnic groups. Youth leaders from the Mam ethnic group living along the Mexican border organized activities and services to help young people deal with issues like violent crime, drugs, and HIV/AIDS. The project brings young people between the ages of 16 and 30 together in community centers where peer leaders help them resolve problems related to immigration, education, and discrimination. Peer leaders also help ethnic youth express their needs to local officials and agencies.

Group Takes Aim at High-Level Human Rights Violators

Civil society efforts to pursue justice and accountability for atrocities committed during Guatemala's armed conflict focused on holding officials responsible for planning and implementing massacres. ADIVIMA, a local legal advocacy and victims' rights group supported by the foundation, built upon its investigations of secret burial grounds by bringing cases against the military directly. The strategy pursues not only rank-and-file executioners, but also the officers and military planners who gave the orders for extrajudicial killings, forced disappearances, and genocide.

Training Aims to Improve Crime Scene Investigations

The foundation and international

fundes initiated training programs to improve Guatemala's criminal investigation procedures, which are currently marked by problems ranging from improper handling of evidence to investigators who examine crime victim's retinas looking for images of the perpetrator. The foundation's three-year project to improve forensic practices—a crucial component for pursuing justice after years of war and establishing public confidence in the police, civil authorities, and the rule of law—focuses on prosecutors, police officers, firefighters, journalists, and government agencies. The project will train investigators in advanced forensic techniques and increase the amount of physical evidence available for use in trials.

Haiti Fondation Connaissance et Liberté (FOKAL)

New Water System Improves Life in Rural Village

Several times a day in Diny, a rural village in Haiti, small girls used to walk two kilometers up the hill to carry back buckets of polluted water that often caused infant diarrhea and skin problems. FOKAL, the Soros foundation in Haiti, funded the building of a water filtering and distribution system. Villagers now buy water from nearby metered fountains for drinking, washing, feeding their animals, and growing produce. The fountains have improved the villagers' health and led them to make inclusive, democratic

decisions about water distribution. FOKAL is seeking funds to expand the water project to other villages.

Canadian Grant Focuses on Gender Inequality in Schools

In Haiti, the school books show boys doing math, playing sports, and dressing up as doctors and lawyers. The girls are in the kitchen playing with dolls and taking care of younger children. FOKAL's Step by Step program, TiPa TiPa, taught teachers how to recognize and address gender problems in education with a grant of CA\$450,000 from the Canadian International Development Agency. In 2006, TiPa TiPa also received grants from a Swedish foundation, Star of Hope, UNICEF, and the European Union.

FOKAL's Library Program Celebrates 10th Anniversary

FOKAL and its network of over 40 community libraries joined in the 10-year celebration of its oldest member, Bibliothèque Monique Calixte. The library, which is housed in the foundation's resource center in Port-au-Prince, serves some 6,000 young readers from the city's impoverished neighborhoods. Writers, musicians, and painters contributed to the celebration's workshops, conferences, concerts, exhibits, and films. Other resource center events included a celebration of French and Creole culture, the fourth Crossroads Theater festival for Port-au-Prince's young theater groups, and an international conference on democracy and development in the age of globalization.

Improving Policy OSI strengthened its support for civil society leaders and organizations committed to social change in the Middle East and North Africa. It established a regional office for the Arab world to help coordinate the work of OSI network programs and local and regional partners. Across the region, the foundation gave priority to rights-based approaches to change, continuing to provide support to the Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights as well as to other groups such as the Center for Egyptian Women's Legal Assistance. OSI cooperated with the Cairo-based Partners in Development and the International Budget Project to support the monitoring of public revenue and expenditure at the regional level.

Helping People In Jordan, OSI supported an Internet radio station (*see story on next page*) bringing people stories about local problems such as bad drinking water, potholes in the streets, and petty corruption as well as demonstrations protesting official policies. "We are unique," Daoud Kuttub, who runs AmmanNet radio, said. "We have become the trendsetter in the media here. Many times we break a story, the local newspapers pick it up, and the government reacts to the newspaper stories." Elsewhere in the Middle East, OSI also helped migrant laborers, women, Palestinian educators and activists, and Arab artists.

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

INTERNET RADIO IN AMMAN

REPORTING LOCAL PROBLEMS WITHOUT CENSORSHIP



DURING THE YEAR 2000, Daoud Kuttab, a journalist based in Amman, Jordan, wanted to start an independent radio station. He wanted a station with a staff too young to muzzle itself by self-censorship, a station whose reporters would take to Amman's streets and, by producing fact-based local stories, focus the public's attention on nagging problems like tainted drinking water, sporadic rubbish pick ups, potholed streets and roads, petty corruption, unreliable bus service, and rising meat and gas prices. Kuttab wanted a station that would ignite public debate and make civil servants, government contractors, and business leaders feel the need to be open and responsible about their dealings.

Jordan's government still held a monopoly on the broadcast media in 2000. As a result, the airwaves offered listeners and viewers little more than rapid entertainment

AmmanNet reporter Mohammad Ersan interviews a refugee about her experiences.

and a constant drone of reports and commentaries on the latest crises in the Middle East. The same is still true of the broadcast media in most Middle Eastern countries. When government-controlled media focus predominantly on entertainment and world affairs, governments can avoid tackling crucial local issues that affect people's immediate quality of life, issues that help develop citizen participation in community affairs.

"Everyone was talking about everyone else's problems and not their own," Kuttab says. "I wanted a station that would focus on our own problems, right here in Amman."

The technological revolution opened a pathway around Jordan's media-ownership restrictions. Kuttab knew the Jordanian authorities were attempting to attract foreign investment by promoting the country as an information-technology oasis. He knew the government would be loathe to impose censorship upon the Internet, because such restrictions would scare off high-tech investors. So he conceived a plan to create a community, Internet-radio station, convinced the mayor of Amman and UNESCO to sponsor it, and obtained funding from the Open Society Institute, UNESCO, and other donors to bring it online.

"People could hear the voices of demonstrators."

In the autumn of 2000, www.ammannet.net took to the worldwide web, and it grabbed attention in Jordan quickly by doing the unprecedented. When students at a local university held a demonstration, the authorities shooed all television cameras from the campus, but they did not remove people carrying mobile telephones. So AmmanNet's reporter was able to call the station and capture real-time interviews with the demonstrators.

As the events unfolded, AmmanNet's reach carried beyond its website. Kuttab, a Palestinian, telephoned a radio station on the Palestinian West Bank and convinced its managers to relay AmmanNet's audio stream via their FM transmitter. The signal carried back across the Jordan River to Amman, and, in this roundabout way, Jordanian radio listeners could follow a protest demonstration in Jordan for the first time as it happened. "People could actually hear the voices of the demonstrators," Kuttab says. "And we did not get into trouble."

After four years of chasing local news, AmmanNet had demonstrated to Jordan's government that it was not

in the business of fomenting revolution—at least not in the conventional, coup d'état, soldiers-surrounding-the-radio-station sense. Kuttab and his supporters in the government—he's dubbed them "digital ministers," as opposed to "analog ministers"—joined forces to defeat proposed legislation that would have required Internet broadcasters to obtain government licenses.

"We screamed," Kuttab says. "You don't want to require a nine-year-old singing on the Internet to have a license. You don't want to require Coca Cola to obtain a license to play its jingle. And, anyway, the authorities did not have the technical means to control the web."

Then, in 2004, the presence of AmmanNet on the web helped "digital ministers" and others convince lawmakers to liberalize Jordan's broadcasting laws. For the first time, Kuttab says, the government created a mechanism for a private company or individual to obtain a frequency. AmmanNet found a second home, at 92.4 on the FM dial. The frequency came, however, with an unusual condition: Any station that wants to do news and politics in Jordan is required to pay a registration fee that is 50 percent higher than the fee paid by stations that broadcast only entertainment. "They made the least-profitable stations more expensive to operate," Kuttab says, pointing out that AmmanNet would not be able to survive without donor funding. "The moneymakers pay less. So we are asking for fee waivers for NGOs."

"They can't stop us from doing things we believe in."

"We are unique," Kuttab says. "We don't practice self-censorship. We are not owned by the government. We are not owned by business people in bed with the government. So they can't stop us from doing things we believe in. We have become the trendsetter in the media here. Many times we break a story, the local newspapers pick it up, and the government reacts to the newspaper stories."

AmmanNet's call-in shows and man-in-the-street reports from sidewalks, marketplaces, and bus stops have encouraged ordinary people to press public officials to answer their questions and complaints. "A year and a half ago, people would rarely comment on a political story," Kuttab says. "There was a culture of fear. If you talked about a controversial story, even if a journalist asked a direct



Announcer Mai Malkawi gets ready to go on the air at the AmmanNet studios.

question, people would not comment. The phone lines would go dead.”

This reticence began to wane as AmmanNet gathered an audience that could hear ordinary people posing questions and demanding answers without fear. AmmanNet brought in lawyers to answer phone-in queries and offer advice on legal problems. A multipart series on problems facing the country’s women and reports on foreign workers in Jordan, including throngs of housemaids from the Philippines, attracted more callers. In October 2006, AmmanNet reported that a proposed deal for oil from Iraq was not as beneficial for Jordan as government officials had made it sound, because the oil was inferior and security and extra refining costs were going to make it more expensive than Jordanians were being led to believe. “The government became very angry,” Kuttub says. “I don’t want to exaggerate our clout, but they haven’t signed the contract.”

Another AmmanNet effort seeks to raise public awareness about the work of Jordan’s parliament. “In most Arab countries, the parliament is a sideshow,” Kuttub says. “The system favors the government or the tribes or whatever, and the parliament rarely gets media coverage. The members try to play their legitimate role, but nobody knows what they are doing, good or bad.” In response, AmmanNet began webcasting and archiving the parliament’s sessions. And it has launched a project to monitor parliamentary votes, choosing 10 members of parliament from different segments of society—men, women, old, young, right wing, left wing, Islamist, Christian—and giving each a web page with a curriculum vitae and a summary of their political positions. Then reporters watch how the members cast their votes and post them on the site.



*“The best media criticism is done
by other journalists.”*

Kuttab insisted from AmmanNet’s beginnings that its reporters adhere to strict guidelines to assure the accuracy of their stories: “I said no stories without sound bites, because they give stories credibility. Without sound bites, you can cheat people by saying anything you want.” Now, AmmanNet is working to raise journalistic standards in Jordan and the greater Arabic-language world.

“We have posted a code of professional ethics on our website,” Kuttab says. “The best media criticism is done by other journalists, and we are doing critiques using this code as a reference, not only for media in Jordan and Palestine, but in Lebanon, Syria, and Egypt. We are empowering editors and journalists to make improvements if they want.”

AmmanNet’s editor-in-chief, Sawsan Zaidah, compiles a press critique and catches flack from journalists not used to having their work criticized in public: “The last complaint call I received was from an angry columnist who was threatening to file a lawsuit. His paper had run a story

about relations between Hamas and Fatah, the rival factions in Palestine. They printed a piece of gossip about Hamas and presented it as fact without support. It was a dangerous accusation. They picked it up from some website on the fringe of the Internet. And we spotted it.”

Six years into its lifetime, AmmanNet, has become a model for Internet broadcasting efforts across the Arabic-language world. The station’s staff provide training programs using open-access software. “Practically anybody can start a radio station on the Internet,” Kuttab says. “You don’t need a studio to create radio. Digital audio recorders are inexpensive. You can record actualities on a disk, bring the recorder back to a broom closet and record voice-over narration, go onto a computer, and edit it into final form.”

“The women who come here for training courses, women from Saudi Arabia and other societies that are more conservative than Jordan’s, work extremely hard,” Zaidah says. “They see it as a chance to do something they might not have the chance to do at home.”

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA: PROGRAM BRIEFS

The unresolved question of Palestine remains central to the region's stability and security. OSI has initiated a number of programs addressing the situation in Palestine. To improve higher education in Palestine, OSI's Network Scholarship Programs supports a faculty development program that enables young scholars to pursue doctoral studies in the United States as well as a legal studies program. The Middle East and North Africa Initiative supports organizations that defend civil liberties among Israel's Arab minority, and, in 2006, it funded the visit of Palestinian educators and activists to Lithuania, Moldova, and Kosovo to explore how quality of education among minority populations can be improved. The initiative joined with a number of individuals and organizations to establish the Arab Fund for Arts and Culture, which will begin operations in 2007 relying mostly on funding from within the region.

Law Fellows Meet in Middle East to Exchange Experiences

The first Middle East gathering of Open Society Justice Initiative law fellows allowed lawyers from around the world to exchange experiences and discuss regional issues with local colleagues and activists. At a meeting in Cairo organized together with the Middle East and North Africa Initiative, participants reported progress in promoting the rule of law in the region, but found legal approaches are underutilized in addressing issues of democratic governance and development.

Groups Challenge Exploitation of Foreign Laborers

Labor rights activists for the first time brought pressure on Middle Eastern governments to examine

and change their labor laws. A roundtable sponsored by the Middle East and North Africa Initiative brought together activists and government officials to discuss the situation of domestic workers and garment industry workers in Jordan, Lebanon, and the Gulf countries. The discussions helped spark wider interest by local human rights groups and international organizations in defending the fundamental rights of migrant laborers working in the Middle East.

New Effort Targets Violence Against Women

OSI collaborated with the organization V-Day to launch V-Day Karama, a three-year initiative to end violence against women in the Middle East and North Africa. The new

program will raise awareness about the problem in nine countries.

University Networks Increase Access to Information

OSI established networks at university libraries in three countries to increase public access to information. Working with the Electronic Information for Libraries project, a global consortium of libraries in transition and developing countries supported by OSI's Information Program, the initiative helped university libraries in Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan build an electronic network that makes the online data of all three universities available to the public, particularly students and faculty.





INITIATIVES

Prisoners line up in the Pedemba Road Prison in Freetown, Sierra Leone. Juveniles without birth certificates to verify their age are mixed in with adults in prisons throughout Africa.

Improving Policy Tuberculosis was an OSI public health priority in 2006 as OSI alerted national governments and the international community to the spread of this curable disease. All of OSI's public health efforts sought to protect the rights of marginalized populations to access health services. The Public Health Program campaigned for harm reduction policies and services to reduce HIV infection, access to antiretroviral treatment for drug users, access to health services for sex workers, equal access to health care for the Roma, palliative care for the sick and dying, increased attention to TB/HIV coinfections, and legal advocacy to advance public health goals. The Mental Health Initiative sought to ensure the integration and participation of people with mental disabilities in the community.

Helping People Sufia Begum is an expert on detecting the signs of tuberculosis in her village in Bangladesh (*see story on next page*). OSI supports the organization that recruited her and other village women to identify cases of TB and urge people to go for testing and treatment. George Soros visited Bangladesh to raise awareness about the dangers of TB and spoke at international conferences to warn the world about this urgent health crisis. The program briefs starting on page 71 show the range of people OSI is helping to obtain health care: drug users, sex workers, Roma, people with mental disabilities, the poor and marginalized.

PUBLIC HEALTH

TB IN BANGLADESH:

VILLAGE WOMEN BATTLE THE “KING OF DISEASES”



Sufia Begum, community health worker

SUFIA BEGUM is expert at spotting symptoms of tuberculosis, the “king of diseases” in her native Bangladesh, the *raj rog* in her native Bengali language. In Begum’s 55 years, this mother of five grown children, this wife to a cookware peddler and midwife for hundreds of births, has hardly ever ventured beyond the precincts of her village. Her bare feet tramp its gray earth. Her hands milk its cows, mend its bamboo huts, and tend its mustard plants. Her fingers struggle to write anything beyond her own name. But her ears are tuned to detect the telltale cough. Her eyes are trained to spot the fatigue, the lack of appetite, the loss of weight. Her will is unyielding. And, thanks to the strength of her senses and her character, Sufia Begum has helped safeguard her village’s people from tuberculosis.

Almost two decades ago, years after tuberculosis had tortured and killed her uncle, Begum enlisted in a quintessentially civil society response to the disease, led by a nongovernmental organization known as BRAC. It had begun life by helping Bangladeshis recover from the 1971 war between East and West Pakistan. Subsequently, BRAC began providing tiny loans exclusively to women among Bangladesh’s ultra poor, affording them an opportunity to

channel their energies into profit-making ventures and lift themselves from abject poverty. BRAC soon discovered that many women or their spouses were suffering debilitating and sometimes lethal diseases, especially the raj rog.

Over half of Bangladesh's 142 million people carry the tuberculosis bacillus. Roughly 10 percent of these will develop the disease itself. And, with each passing year, tuberculosis claims the lives of an estimated 70,000 Bangladeshis, one every 10 minutes, making the disease the country's most common cause of adult mortality. Tuberculosis hits hardest the poor, and especially the breadwinners among the poor: fathers and mothers so sick that they cannot perform work that keeps their spouses and children from sinking further into hunger and destitution.

BRAC responded to the disease beginning in 1984 by recruiting women like Sufia Begum to work as community health volunteers, or *shasthya shebika*. These women urge villagers suspected of having tuberculosis to get tested. And they work to assure that people suffering from the disease follow the prescribed treatment regime to the end, so the disease is cured completely and the bacillus will not develop strains resistant to available medicines.

Begum looks for symptoms of 10 diseases, including TB

Today, BRAC's community-based tuberculosis control program covers about two-thirds of Bangladesh's territory. The *shasthya shebika* earn minuscule commissions by selling medicines for common diseases and providing other rudimentary health care services. During her daily rounds, Sufia Begum makes about 15 home visits in her village of 950 people, walking its pathways, calling at one bamboo-and-tin hut after another, passing cowsheds with thatched grass roofs, the primary school and the mosque, children gamboling in the dirt and splashing in ponds, and young men playing a board game known as *carom*. She checks on each pregnant woman. She seeks out anyone with symptoms of 10 diseases, including the raj rog, and, time and again, she warns of its danger. Overcoming popular misconceptions about tuberculosis is a daunting challenge. Tragically, too many Bangladeshis are still unaware that tuberculosis is a curable disease whose treatment is available free of charge.

If Begum discovers someone with the disease, she works relentlessly to convince the patient to take the medicine. (BRAC's program requires each patient to deposit the equivalent of \$3.00 in Bangladeshi *taka* as a guarantee that they will fulfil a personal pledge to stick with the drug treatment regime.) Begum watches the patients take their medicine; and when the treatment is complete and the patient's condition improves, she returns the deposit. One man she visited was already bedridden, and she had to lift him up to bring the medicine to his lips; today he plows his own fields. Another patient was a woman returned to her parents by her husband because he could no longer look after her.

"Nobody bucks the *shasthya shebika*," said Afsan Chowdhury, the director of BRAC's advocacy and human rights unit, adding that the women have a treatment success rate of over 95 percent. In recent years, Bangladesh has improved its ranking (fifth or sixth) on the list of 22 high burden countries. Its detection rate has increased from 34 percent in 2003 to 61 percent in 2005 and to a projected 71 percent in 2006.

BRAC, with funding for research and advocacy assistance from the Open Society Institute, is working to fight the raj rog even more aggressively. Several years ago, OSI's Public Health Program and partners from five countries suffering high incidence rates of tuberculosis joined forces to measure the disease's progress, including the growth of TB/HIV coinfection and the appearance of drug-resistant strains of TB; to study ongoing eradication efforts; and to advocate for improved governmental policies and services to control it. In the autumn of 2006, OSI published five Public Health Watch monitoring reports on TB policy in Bangladesh, Brazil, Nigeria, Tanzania, and Thailand. Civil society advocates in the five countries are using the reports to campaign for improvements in the detection and treatment of TB.

Chowdhury says one element of the recommended strategy for Bangladesh is to intensify detection of tuberculosis by increasing the number of *shasthya shebika* and, in some areas, moving beyond them to mobilize entire villages to stamp out the disease. "We have done pilots in three areas," Chowdhury says. "We recruit from all segments of society, from young people to cured patients, who are the best advocates. These recruits will go from house to house



informing people about the symptoms of tuberculosis, asking if they have these symptoms, and encouraging them to get tested.” Efforts are underway to vaccinate children, giving partial protection against pulmonary tuberculosis.

Soros: “Tuberculosis is curable and its eradication attainable.”

In conjunction with the publication of Public Health Watch reports on TB policy, OSI sponsored media roundtables to draw attention to the disease. OSI’s founder and chairman, George Soros, personally joined BRAC’s chairman, Fazle Hasan Abed, in awareness-raising efforts, including visits to shasthya shebika and tuberculosis patients in rural Bangladesh in December 2006. “Tuberculosis is curable and its eradication is attainable, but it remains largely

As a community health volunteer, Sufia Begum makes home visits, checking for symptoms of 10 diseases, including tuberculosis.

neglected globally due to low levels of awareness,” Soros said at a BRAC center in Dhaka. “Drugs are widely available. All we need now is more awareness campaigns with the participation of nongovernmental organizations.”

“We want the government to know that there are a lot of people getting involved,” Chowdhury says. “Traditionally, the TB establishment is a closed group—the doctors, the medical establishment, the WHO—and it is not exactly user-friendly. Our task is to let these people know we are watching them. In Bangladesh, the government recognizes this and is paying more attention to the quality of services



BRAC's community health volunteers witness patients taking their medicine to assure that each treatment is completed.

and giving more support to people providing services.” The government carries the responsibility for testing and providing medicine that is eventually passed on to shasthya shebika.

“If we can keep this going for another five years, I think the major struggle will be over,” Chowdhury says. “Then we must sustain the rate. You fight this battle forever.”

“OSI has given us the leverage coming out of the box,” says Faruque Ahmed, director of BRAC’s health program. “The Public Health Watch report has given us an opportunity to monitor the situation and to say what is right, what is wrong, and what needs to be done. And OSI gives us an opportunity to engage in dialogue with

people in the private sector, with doctors, with the business community, and with the media, to discuss the problems at a national level, and to pressure the government to do its job and the NGOs to do their job well.”

While BRAC’s awareness-raising, advocacy, and policymaking work goes forward, back in her home village, Sufia Begum will continue to make the rounds, and at one bamboo-and-tin hut after another, she will be listening for the telltale cough of the *raj rog*.

PUBLIC HEALTH: PROGRAM BRIEFS

Public Health Program

The Public Health Program increased OSI's presence at the XVI International AIDS Conference in Toronto, raising the profile of key issues often neglected and underrepresented in the policy discourse on HIV/AIDS. OSI staff and grantees participated in over 25 presentations, satellite sessions,

and news conferences on issues including harm reduction measures for drug users, the interaction between the TB and HIV epidemics, sex worker health and rights, palliative care, and human rights protections in the fight against HIV. The Public Health Program worked to strengthen civil society engagement with the Global Fund to Fight HIV/

AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. It supported the participation of people living with these conditions in the Global Fund's decision making and other ways of increasing funding for socially marginalized groups. Public Health Program projects include Health Media, International Harm Reduction Development, International Palliative Care, the Law and Health Initiative, Public Health Watch, Roma Health, and the Sexual Health and Rights Project.

Health Media

Thembi's Diary

To combat the stigma and discrimination faced by people living with HIV/AIDS in South Africa, OSI supported Thembi Ngubane to produce an audio diary of her struggle to live with AIDS in South Africa. Ngubane, now 20, spent one year with a tape recorder to produce the AIDS Diary Project. After a five-city tour in the United States, she returned to her home country and engaged in a speaking tour to increase public awareness about AIDS. The diary aired on National Public Radio's *All Things Considered*.

Living with HIV/AIDS: Thembi Ngubane's radio diary raised awareness of HIV/AIDS in the United States and her home country of South Africa.



Reporters Expose Discrimination in Roma Access to Health Care

Despite expenditures of nearly 730,000 euros, an investigative piece concluded, the Roma in Braila County, Romania, had no more access to health care or better living conditions than three years ago. On one project, backed-up sewage flooded rehabilitated one-room apartments and a health clinic, now abandoned. The contractor complained that the money went down the drain because the city didn't maintain the sanitation system. This article and two others resulted from a successful pilot project funded by the Public Health Program. OSI awarded similar grants to media centers in Bulgaria, Macedonia, Romania, and Serbia to increase public understanding of the complex health issues faced by Roma communities.

International Harm Reduction Development Program (IHRD)

IHRD Expands HIV Treatment Options for People Who Use Drugs

IHRD released a new report, *Delivering HIV/AIDS Care and Treatment for People Who Use Drugs: Lessons from Research and Practice*, in time for the 2006 International AIDS Conference in Toronto. IHRD's publications and advocacy helped create protocols for inclusion of drug users in HIV treatment, new models of care in Russia and Ukraine, and global awareness of the problem.

Lithuania Adopts Effective Harm Reduction Guidelines

IHRD's partners and grantees advised the Lithuanian Ministry of Health on its new harm reduction guidelines, which called for confidential or anonymous needle exchanges, safer injection and safer sex education and supplies, counseling, and educational, legal, and medical support for drug users and their families. IHRD advocacy to ensure medical and social support for drug users also included analysis of ways in which drug users in Eastern Europe, Central Asia, and Asia are excluded from HIV treatment.

Ukraine Approves Substitution Treatment for Drug Use

The Ukrainian government agreed to the use of buprenorphine and methadone in tablet form as substitutes for heroin and other opiates in treatment programs. Plans call for pilot methadone programs in 10 regions of Ukraine, with a total of 3,000 patients receiving methadone by October 2007. Methadone and buprenorphine are proven to reduce illicit drug use and HIV risk, and to support adherence to antiretroviral treatment. Ukraine's action resulted from the concerted efforts of IHRD, the International Renaissance Foundation, and numerous partners. In addition to advocacy, IHRD funds organizations that use peer counseling, outreach, and social support to increase drug users' access to care, linking substitution therapy with HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment.

International Palliative Care

First International Pain Policy Fellows Selected

The International Palliative Care Initiative and the Pain & Policy Studies Group of the University of Wisconsin Comprehensive Cancer Center selected the first class of eight International Pain Policy Fellows from Nigeria, Serbia, Panama, Vietnam, Argentina, Uganda, Colombia, and Sierra Leone. During the two-year fellowship program, fellows will be trained and mentored by international pain and palliative care experts who will help them to develop a pain policy project for improving the availability of opioid analgesics for pain management in their respective countries.

Experts Develop Essential Drug List for Palliative Care

At the request of the World Health Organization Cancer Control Program, the International Palliative Care Initiative and the International Association for Hospice and Palliative Care hosted and cosponsored a meeting in Salzburg, Austria, to develop a list of essential medicines for palliative care. The list of essential medicines selected by 31 representatives from 26 global, regional, and professional organizations has already been published in several medical journals and is available as a model for countries developing their own list of medications for palliative care.

Law and Health Initiative

Lawyers and Palliative Care Providers Plan Integrated Legal Services

South African lawyers and palliative care providers met to discuss working on issues such as protecting property rights for the dying, planning guardianship for children orphaned by AIDS and cancer, and taking legal action to secure funeral benefits.

The meeting, organized by the Public Health Program and the Open Society Foundation for South Africa, developed plans for integrating legal and paralegal services into a network of OSI-funded hospices throughout South Africa, home to the world's worst HIV epidemic.

TB Advocacy in DC: OSI researcher Ezio Távora dos Santos Filho testified in Congress as part of OSI's campaign to improve access to TB treatment.



OSI Grants Support HIV/AIDS and Human Rights Work

The Public Health Program's Law and Health Initiative and the Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa invited applications from 12 NGOs for multiyear institutional grants to work at the intersection of HIV/AIDS and human rights in Southern Africa. They also placed law associates at several HIV/AIDS organizations in the region. In Southern Africa well-financed treatment and prevention programs are hindered by chronic human rights violations against populations most at risk.

Public Health Watch

Brazilian Researcher Raises Awareness of TB Policy

Ezio Távora dos Santos Filho, who is HIV positive and has twice suffered from TB, made significant strides in raising awareness of TB policy in Brazil through the publication of his report for OSI's Public Health Watch. Santos, interviewed by major media outlets, has also made numerous presentations to policymakers and the medical community, including a keynote address at Brazil's National Conference on Tuberculosis. His message is a call for increased social mobilization to ensure the success of TB control efforts. In addition to Brazil, Public Health Watch,

working with local researchers, has published reports focusing on civil society perspectives on TB policy in Bangladesh, Nigeria, Tanzania, and Thailand.

Lack of a National Plan to Fight AIDS Hurts African Americans

The Public Health Watch's report on HIV/AIDS policy in the United States emphasized the lack of attention to the epidemic's disproportionate impact on African Americans. The findings attracted extensive media coverage and positive reviews from key decision makers. George Soros discussed the report on Black Entertainment Television. The Congressional Black Caucus heard a presentation on the findings.

The Black AIDS Institute began plans to mobilize the African American community to fight HIV/AIDS. A congressional hearing was proposed on the need for a comprehensive national plan to fight AIDS.

Soros Calls for Social Mobilization to Defeat Escalating TB Epidemic

George Soros, speaking at the World Conference on Lung Health in Paris, and OSI's Public Health Watch called for massive social mobilization to defeat the deadly resurgence of tuberculosis. OSI reports on TB policy in five countries highlighted how TB, HIV/AIDS, and poverty combine to cause almost 2 million preventable deaths each year. "The emergence of extensively drug-resistant TB," Soros said, "sounds the alarm that the world is facing an urgent health crisis."

Sexual Health and Rights Project (SHARP)

Courts Rule USAID's Antiprostitution Pledge Unconstitutional

Two U.S. district courts ruled that USAID's pledge opposing prostitution, required for public health groups to receive U.S. funding, violates the U.S. Constitution's First Amendment by forcing groups to adopt the government's view to remain eligible for funds. The decisions, which apply only to named plaintiffs, including the OSI affiliate Alliance for Open Society International, could have



HIV Test: Technician tests for HIV at laboratory set up by Médecins Sans Frontières in Liberia.

a broad impact on many other public health organizations. The decisions, however, have been appealed. SHARP campaigned against the pledge by supporting research and communications efforts demonstrating that, in addition to being unconstitutional, the pledge was counterproductive as a public health policy because it alienated sex workers who play an important role in HIV prevention.

Sex Worker Advocates Organize in Central and Eastern Europe

The Hungarian Civil Liberties Union, with support from OSI, established a first-ever regional network of groups working on sex worker advocacy and policy issues in Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. The Sex Workers' Rights Advocacy Network started with a nucleus of 16 organizations from 15 countries. SHARP funded the presence of sex worker advocates at important forums, such as the XVI International AIDS Conference in Toronto, to ensure that they participated in decisions affecting their lives.

Mental Health Initiative

Serbia Moves to Deinstitutionalize People with Intellectual Disabilities

Serbia plans to replicate nationally a pilot project to deinstitutionalize people with intellectual disabilities and provide them with support services in the community. The government's commitment is the first of its kind in Central and Eastern Europe. Since 2003, the Open Society Mental Health Initiative has supported the pilot program, the Serbian Association for Promoting Inclusion, as well as other organizations throughout the region working to integrate people with intellectual disabilities.

Azerbaijan Explores Community-based Alternatives for Disabled People

The Mental Health Initiative launched a \$1.5 million project to promote the human rights of people with mental disabilities in Azerbaijan, working with the government to find community-based alternatives to institutions. People who are deinstitutionalized need to have access to decent education that meets their needs, health care, and other social supports. The initiative will work closely with ministries and civil society organizations over the next five years to ensure that participation in society is not a special privilege but a fundamental human right.

TB Check: X-rays are checked for tuberculosis at a TB hospital in Uzbekistan.



Improving Policy The law and governance programs of the Open Society Institute worked to establish and spread global standards of human rights, freedom of expression, equal access to public services, and government openness. The Open Society Justice Initiative continued its leadership role in establishing a system of international justice by supporting the work of special war crimes tribunals. It argued for individual rights in the European Court of Human Rights and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. OSI and the Soros foundations promoted policies seeking equality for women and Roma. OSI supported the disclosure of resource revenues in resource-rich countries to ensure that people benefit from their nation's natural wealth.

Helping People The story on the next page describes what OSI is doing to help thousands of Nigerians stuck in pretrial detention for, on average, three and a-half years. As the program briefs (*see page 80*) show, OSI also helped people with mental disabilities in Europe by supporting a lawsuit that resulted in a decision challenging involuntary commitment. OSI helped villagers seeking assistance with legal problems in Sierra Leone, ethnic minorities stopped and searched by police in Spain, Bulgaria, and Hungary, and women who survived sexual violence. And OSI went to court to help Roma children attending segregated schools in the Czech Republic and Russian Roma whose village was bulldozed by the government.

LAW AND GOVERNANCE

PRETRIAL DETENTION IN NIGERIA:

WAITING YEARS IN JAIL FOR THEIR DAY IN COURT

SOKOTO PRISON, at the far northern edge of Nigeria, is a hot, gritty, dehydrating place to wait: hour upon hour, week upon week, never knowing when the waiting will end. It was midsummer, July 2003, when Mu'azu and Isah Ibrahim, men who survived by fishing and farming, began their wait. Mu'azu was 51 years old, his brother 49.

In the early 1990s, the Ibrahim brothers were involved in a dispute over a parcel of farmland in their native village, a place called Kabanga. Another village man claimed he was the just heir to the plot; the Ibrahim brothers maintained that they were the rightful inheritors. The man disappeared in about 1993. After 10 years, the missing man's nephew made allegations to the authorities that the Ibrahim brothers had killed his uncle. This was enough information for the police to bring the brothers into custody, to transfer them to Sokoto Prison, and to leave them there, surrounded by walls 20 feet high, to wait, without counsel or any other means of influencing the judicial process that had swept them up.

The brothers were not alone in their predicament. Almost two out of every three prisoners in Nigeria's jails today are in pretrial detention awaiting their day in court. On average, these people languish in custody

for more than three and a half years, and a few have waited more than 10 years. Never mind that Nigeria's constitution requires the arraignment of detainees before a court within 48 hours and trials for accused persons within a "reasonable" time. Almost three-quarters of these detainees have no legal counsel, leaving them at the mercy of police officers and criminal justice officials who are, in too many instances, corrupt.

Days turned into weeks for Mu'azu and Isah Ibrahim. Months passed. The seasons changed, as they do even in dry, hot Sokoto. And years of prison life ground by behind doors that did not open even to allow the Ibrahim brothers a bail hearing.

Reasons for the endless waiting

Several factors prolong pretrial detention in Nigeria. Responsibility for investigating crimes and managing evidence rests with the police, a federal-level agency in Nigeria. But 90 percent of the country's crime occurs at the state and local levels, and most trial courts are state-level institutions whose prosecutors rely heavily upon supervision and authorization by federal officials and agencies. The slow interaction between these

multiple layers of bureaucracy leads too frequently to miscommunication and even loss of documents.

Nigeria's police are quick to act first and ask questions later, arresting suspects even if only an initial investigation links them to a crime. The police start their investigation in earnest only after they make an arrest, but they can only release or prosecute a suspect with authorization from the director of public prosecutions, which can take more than five years to obtain. In 2005, 3.7 percent of pretrial detainees were in custody because their case files could not be found, 7.8 percent were in custody because the investigating police officers assigned to their cases had been transferred to other regions or states, and 17.1 percent were in custody as a result of delays in investigations. Nigeria's courts are not required to set time limits on investigations or monitor the duration of pretrial custody.

In most cases, the police and the prosecution do nothing after the magistrates have issued a remand order. One reason for this is that promotion of police officers and prosecutors depends upon the number of arrests and convictions they record.

In too many cases, law enforcement authorities fail or refuse to expedite investigation of the allegation and the filing of a charge in order to obtain bribes from the suspects and their relatives.

Most detainees do not receive access to legal representation at the beginning of their court cases. The police frequently deny suspects contact with family or lawyers until they have found incriminating evidence or extracted confessions—often through torture. A 2005 presidential committee found that about 75 percent of suspects in pretrial detention have no legal representation of any kind.

A successful pilot project

In December 2004, the Legal Aid Council of Nigeria and the Open Society Justice Initiative launched a two-year pilot project whose goal was to reduce the number of pretrial detainees in the overall prison population in Sokoto and three other Nigerian states and to address the underlying causes of the problem of inordinately long periods of pretrial detention.

The project relied upon the services of trained Legal Aid Council lawyers who have been recently called to the Bar

as solicitors and advocates but are on compulsory service to the state for one year. The lawyers on compulsory service are not paid salaries, but receive a monthly government allowance to augment stipends from their places of primary assignment.

The 20 lawyers participating in the pilot states made numerous applications to the police, the director of public prosecution, and the courts calling for the release of detainees on grounds that they had no case to answer or for want of diligent prosecution. In some cases, the lawyers filed applications citing the Fundamental Human Rights Enforcement Procedure Rules, through which the court can unconditionally release persons who are unlawfully detained. In other cases, the lawyers filed applications for release of detainees on bail.

Reports by the project team to the chief judges of the pilot states led to the release of numerous pretrial detainees. Engagement with the police at both the national and state levels led to better monitoring of police behavior and reduced the incidence of police abuse. This monitoring has helped raise the levels of professionalism in police investigations and reduced delays and arraignments.

During its first year, the project achieved significant successes.

- There were 3,011 detainees awaiting trial in the four pilot states at the beginning of the project. Within one year, the project's efforts secured the release of 1,255 (42 percent) of these detainees. The duration of pretrial detention in the four pilot states fell dramatically, including a 61 percent drop in Sokoto. The overall average period of pretrial detention in the four pilot states before the project was 552 days; after one year, the project had reduced this average period to 172 days.
- Through the advocacy efforts of project lawyers at police stations and in courtrooms, 636 suspects—379 of them in Sokoto—were allowed to post bail rather than being remanded to prison custody.

- The project team developed the trust of the police, courts, and other criminal justice agencies and their cooperation ensured success where past programs failed. On April 28, 2005, for example, the inspector-general instructed police commanders in the four pilot states to give the project's lawyers unhindered access to police cells in order to interview and offer legal advice and assistance to inmates. Before this instruction, lawyers were rebuffed at the police stations and were told to go to court if they had any complaints against the police.
- The chief judges in Sokoto and two other states adopted the project's model procedures, known as Practice Direction. As a result, police investigative teams have improved their work. The chief judge in Kaduna state is considering adopting the model procedures.
- Coordination has improved among the agencies responsible for administering criminal justice.

Sustaining and expanding the reform of Nigeria's pretrial detention regime is possible. Prospects are bright for passage of the Administration of Criminal Justice Bill and the Legal Aid (Amendment) Bill. Adoption of the project's Practice Direction by more states will broaden implementation of its mechanism for magistrate courts to monitor and review pretrial custodial orders. The police authorities have established human rights sections at the divisional, area, and state command levels in an effort to strengthen respect for human rights, rule of law, and due process through better training. Police training manuals have been revised to include instructions defining human rights and how to respect them. Police authorities have also reorganized their internal oversight to root out corrupt practices and corrupt police officers.

Three years passed before Mu'azu and Isah Ibrahim found their way out of Sokoto Prison and returned to Kabanga to fish and farm once more. They stayed in prison three years despite the fact that the police had no body, and despite the fact that there were no witnesses linking the Ibrahim brothers with the disappearance. It took three years for legal aid attorneys to convince a court to free them. Today, they remain in Kabanga—free on bail.

JUSTICE AND GOVERNANCE: PROGRAM BRIEFS

Human Rights and Governance Grants Program

Local NGO Brings Environmental Accountability to Pipeline

A Russian environmental NGO initiated new legal actions that challenged the legality and accountability of Russia's largest pipeline project, the Siberia-Pacific Oil Pipeline. Working with other groups, the OSI grantee developed cases exposing administrative violations by local officials and staff from the Russian pipeline company, Transneft. The legal cases, which play an important role in protecting the region's unique ecosystems, build upon an earlier victory by environmental groups that cancelled locating the pipeline's terminal in the ecologically sensitive Amur Bay.

Human Rights Groups Challenge Torture in Ukraine

A grantee supported by both the program and the International Renaissance Foundation concluded a three-year project to challenge the acceptance and use of torture in Ukraine. The Kharkiv Human Rights Protection Group, together with a nationwide coalition of NGOs, documented torture cases across the country, provided local legal aid and litigation services for hundreds of torture victims, and presented claims to the European Court of Human Rights that brought the court's attention to government abuses.

European Court Condemns Illegal Detention of Mentally Disabled

Two program grantees teamed up in Hungary to win a landmark case challenging the involuntary commitment of a person with mental disabilities to a Hungarian psychiatric hospital. The Mental Disability Advocacy Center and the Hungarian Mental Health Interest Forum brought the case before the European Court of Human Rights on behalf of an individual who had been involuntarily detained. The court found Hungary in violation of the right to liberty and security and confirmed that Hungary had failed to meet domestic and international obligations to provide effective protections against illegal detention.

Court Gives Russian Torture Victim a Landmark Victory

Alexei Mikheyev, who confessed to a fictitious crime after torture by Russian police, was paralyzed for life when he jumped through a window in a desperate attempt to escape his torturers. OSI grantees Interights and the Nizhni Novgorod Committee against Torture brought Mikheyev's case to the European Court of Human Rights and won a landmark decision. The court found Russia in violation of European prohibitions on torture and ordered the state to provide damages of 250,000 euros, unprecedented in the court's history.

Open Society Justice Initiative

Former President of Liberia Awaits Trial for War Crimes

Advocacy by a broad coalition of NGOs assisted by the Justice Initiative prompted the Nigerian government to withdraw asylum for indicted war criminal and former president of Liberia Charles Taylor. Indicted by the Special Court for Sierra Leone in 2003 for war crimes committed by his forces in that country, Taylor lost asylum after civil society groups helped two of Taylor's victims pursue a Nigerian High Court case challenging the legality of his protection by Nigeria. By the end of 2006 Taylor was in jail awaiting trial in The Hague.

Russian Roma Seek Justice for Human Rights Violations

Thirty-three long-time Roma residents lost their homes in Dorozhnoe, Kaliningrad, in May 2006 when machine gun-wielding special police and government officials unlawfully ordered the village bulldozed. The Justice Initiative applied to the European Court of Human Rights for justice in one of the first major challenges to human rights violations against Roma in Russia. OSI sought a declaration that the Russian government breached numerous provisions of the European Convention of Human Rights and requested monetary and nonmonetary damages for the

victims, including restitution of legal ownership of their homes.

International Court Establishes Right to Information

The Inter-American Court of Human Rights became the first international tribunal to recognize access to government-held information as a basic human right. The eight-year-old case involved the Chilean government's refusal to provide information about the environmental record of a U.S. logging company. The Justice Initiative, which with others filed an amicus brief in the

case, has helped strengthen access to information rights in a number of countries.

World Bank Grant Spurs Paralegal Efforts in Sierra Leone

The World Bank awarded a three-year, \$879,000 grant to a small organization in Sierra Leone that uses paralegals who navigate between formal and customary law to dispense justice in underserved rural communities. Cofounded by the Justice Initiative, Timap for Justice works with 23 paralegals who deal with cases ranging from corrupt

police officers to a woman accused of being a witch. The World Bank grant will allow Timap to expand its use of paralegals for mediation and conflict resolution to bring justice services to some of the world's poorest people.

Two Reports Expose Ethnic Profiling in Europe

A Justice Initiative report on police stops of ethnic minorities in three countries demonstrated that Roma

Stopping Police: OSI report exposed ethnic profiling in police stops of Moscow metro riders.



pedestrians in Bulgaria and Hungary are more likely to be stopped, searched, and abused by police than majority population pedestrians. In Spain, ethnic minorities, including Roma and immigrants, feel they are targeted by police more than nonminorities. The results from Spain provided the basis for the Justice Initiative's submission to the United Nations Human Rights Committee—the first legal challenge to ethnic profiling filed with an international tribunal. In Russia, the Justice Initiative highlighted discriminatory policing practices by producing the report *Ethnic Profiling in the Moscow Metro*, which found that police stopping 20 times more non-Slavic metro riders than Slavic riders had no impact on crime or terrorism.

Europe's Highest Court to Hear Landmark Segregation Case

The Grand Chamber of the European Court of Human Rights announced that it will review an appeal by 18 Roma children forced to attend segregated schools in the Czech Republic. The case and the appeal, brought by the Justice Initiative and the European Roma Rights Centre, represent the first European-level challenge to the placement of Roma children in schools for the mentally disabled regardless of their actual intellectual abilities, a practice found throughout Central and South Eastern Europe. The appeal gives the continent's supreme judicial body one last chance to take a clear stand against racial segregation in a Europe that is increasingly diverse.

Local Government and Public Service Reform Initiative (LGI)

Decentralization Analysis Prompts Council of Europe Action

The results of an assessment of political and fiscal decentralization to increase democratic local governance in nine South Eastern European countries prompted the Council of Europe to use the assessment's recommendations to follow up with these states. The assessment, conducted by LGI and the Policy Association for an Open Society, reviewed what the nine countries had achieved since signing a 2004 memorandum on reforms to build democratic local governance. LGI worked with the Council of Europe to further decentralization processes in the region, including considering the appointment of an “ambassador at large” to assist states pursuing reform.

New Serbian Tax Law Boosts Local Government Revenues

LGI played a significant role in helping develop and promote a new law that greatly enhances the predictability, transparency, and equitability of local government finances in Serbia. One of the law's most significant features is the transfer of government revenue generated by property taxes away from the federal level to the local level. The redirection will give local governments an important new source of revenue that can be directly implemented for local needs.

Diversity Training Spreads to More Communities

Diversity training modules designed by LGI were used by an EU project in Macedonia, five universities in Central Asia and the Caucasus, and government agencies and NGOs in eight countries across Central and South Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. The trainings help government agencies and civil society groups pursue public administration reforms that respect diversity and make governance more efficient and democratic. LGI also initiated publication of its training manuals into 10 local languages and facilitated an exchange between local government officials from Serbia and the UNDP and civil society experts from Kyrgyzstan.

Analysis Helps Get EU Funding for Education Reform

A white paper on decentralization in education, produced by LGI, helped the Bulgarian Ministry of Education increase EU funding for crucial education reform projects. The paper called attention to the need to reform the country's outdated regional education inspectorates, an area that the government had overlooked and had no money for in the national budget. By bringing up this oversight, the paper allowed the government to include the necessary reform funding in its EU structural funds request.

City of Gold:
Tent city springs
up around
Mongolians
panning for gold.



Revenue Watch Institute

Public-Private Partnership Launches Revenue Watch Institute

OSI, Norway, and the Hewlett Foundation launched the Revenue Watch Institute (RWI), a major initiative to tackle corruption in countries rich in natural resources. The new institute represents the expansion of an effective OSI program and priority into an independent organization. Revenue Watch, as a leading force in a growing international movement, promotes better oversight of resource revenues to benefit people living in resource-rich countries such as Azerbaijan, Iraq, Mexico, Nigeria, and Russia.

OSI donated \$4.5 million, Norway \$3 million, and Hewlett \$3 million.

Norway Makes Substantial Commitment to Transparency

Working with the Publish What You Pay initiative and other partners, the Revenue Watch Institute successfully advocated for the Norwegian government to host and provide support for the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative's (EITI) new secretariat in Oslo. The initiative now has a 20-member international board that includes RWI's director.

Mongolian Mining Law Protects Development and Accountability

The Revenue Watch Institute provided technical assistance that

helped Mongolian legislators and government officials develop a historic mineral resources law. The law has new provisions focusing on revenue transparency issues, environmental safeguards, and increased royalty rates and a windfall profits tax. As officials developed the legislation, RWI experts provided in-depth analyses of revenue management proposals and assessments of the short- and long-term impacts of various mining taxation policies. By the end of 2006, Mongolia formally signed the EITI.

Banks and Legislatures Respond to Transparency Agenda

Campaigns organized by RWI and Publish What You Pay helped

prompt major development and financial institutions to include strong disclosure provisions for all extractive industry lending projects. During the year, institutions such as the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development adopted disclosure provisions for its loan recipients and the World Bank's International Finance Corporation began applying these requirements across all of its extractive industry lending. In the United States, a coalition supported by RWI and Publish What You Pay helped prompt passage of a bipartisan House resolution supporting EITI, and analyzed the reporting and disclosure requirements of various pieces of legislation.

Roma Programs

Roma Initiatives Office Roma Participation Program Roma Cultural Participation Project

Roma Mentors Spread Skills and Tolerance

A university linguist, a professional soccer player, a website editor-in-chief, and the director of a professional dance troupe were just some of the Roma adults who mentored young Hungarians in 2006. As part of a mentorship initiative launched by the Roma Cultural Participation Project and the Pressley Ridge Foundation, prominent Roma in sports, arts, and culture met with children for after-school Roma cultural activities.

Young Roma Leader Testifies Before Congress

Tano Bechev, a young Roma activist from Bulgaria, testified before members of the U.S. Congress about the critical role of desegregation efforts in helping Roma improve their lives. Bechev, one of many Roma leaders trained by the Roma Participation Program, spoke at a U.S. Helsinki Commission briefing on the current status of Roma in Europe. Within the last three years, Bechev has gone from local politics in Bulgaria to a policy internship at the European Commission to heading a public policy NGO in Sofia.

Grantees Make Gains Against Racism and Disease

Two new Roma grantees used different approaches to address issues ranging from racist myths to the lack of public health measures for Roma children. A Roma women journalists' organization in Slovakia produced segments broadcast on national radio that dispelled racist myths, such as Roma eating dogs, and provided information about elections, the Decade of Roma Inclusion, and Roma history and culture. In Macedonia, a Roma women's rights grantee secured basic vaccinations for Roma children in three municipalities, and educated young Roma women about the importance of finishing school before getting married and starting a family.

Soccer Stars Give Racism the Boot

Romanian professional soccer players participated in an international campaign to confront racism in sports and anti-Roma sentiment in Romania. During nine Romanian premier league games, players donned t-shirts and held banners bearing the slogan "Racism Breaks the Game." Star players also spoke out against racism in articles and interviews that highlighted the contributions of different racial and ethnic groups, including Roma, to soccer. OSI worked with international and Romanian sports and media organizations to implement the campaign, which, through combined TV, radio, and print media coverage, reached an estimated 2.5 million Romanians.

Roma Integration Brings Economic Growth

The Soros foundation in Bulgaria produced a report showing that full integration of Roma in Bulgaria would boost the country's gross domestic product by 7.5 to 10 billion euros over 10 years. The growth is attributed to a combination of factors including savings from reduced welfare payments as Roma gain access to more employment opportunities and reductions in crime due to increases in employment and income. The results were widely distributed to policymakers and the public through the media to help persuade Bulgarians about the benefits of integrating Roma.

Network Women's Program

Liberian Women Voice Concerns and Hopes to Truth Commission

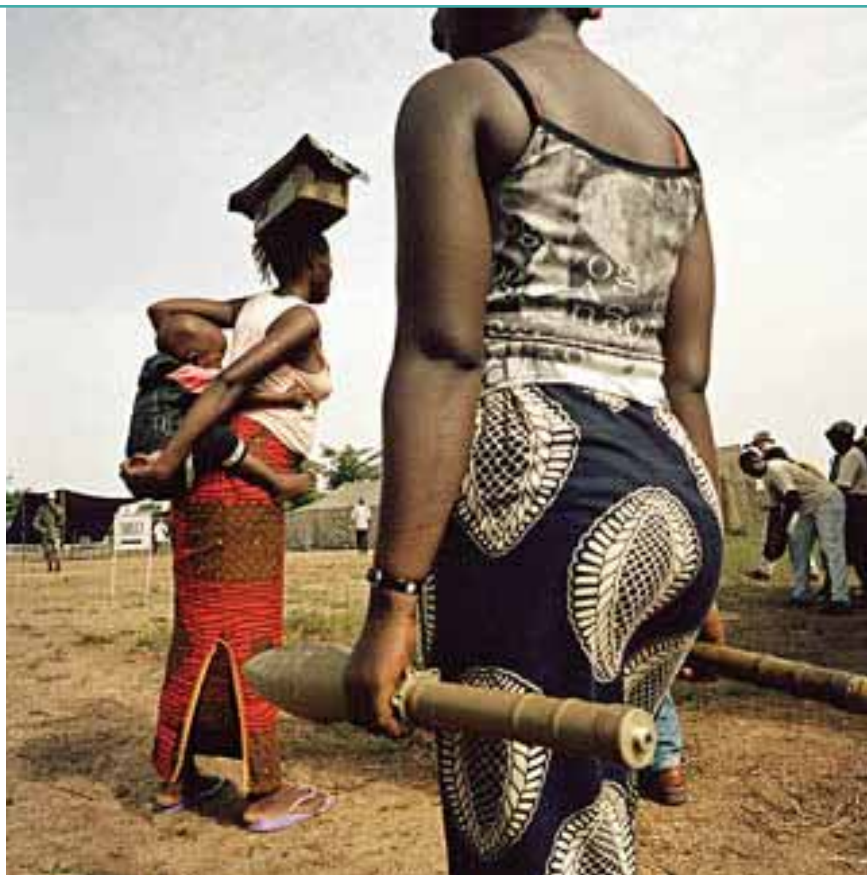
Women across Liberia expressed their hopes, fears, and expectations in a series of meetings with the Women's Committee of Liberia's Truth and Reconciliation Commission. With support from the Women's Program, the meetings helped the commission in its efforts to reconcile a country after 14 years of civil war in which thousands of women and girls were raped or forced into sexual slavery. Liberian women played key roles in ending the war in 2003 and in the 2005 victory of Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, Africa's first elected female president.

Group Helps Sexual Violence Survivors Pursue Justice

With help from the Women's Program and OSI's Southern and East African initiatives, a Congolese women's and girls' rights organization documented sexual violence crimes and advocated for their prosecution by the International Criminal Court. Solidarité Feminine pour la Paix et le Développement Integral also provided survivors with referrals for medical and psychological care and help with reintegration through outreach to families and potential employers.

Roma Women Bring Agenda to EU and UN

The Roma Women's Initiative, a project of the Women's Program and OSI's Roma Participation Program, presented research that contributed



Waging Peace: Liberian women brought ammunition and rockets to a UN-sponsored demobilization camp in 2004. Women continue to play a key role in securing peace.

to the European Parliament passing its first resolution on the need to improve the situation of Roma women in Europe by, among other things, ensuring equal access to employment, education, health care, and domestic violence support services. The initiative also provided a shadow report on Roma women in Macedonia to the UN Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, prompting the committee to carefully scrutinize Macedonia's official status report.

Film Challenges Efforts to Decriminalize Polygamy

OSI supported the production of *Elechek*, a documentary film highlighting the problems of polygamy. Its screening was timed for the start of parliamentary efforts to decriminalize polygamy in Kyrgyzstan. The Network Women's Program and the Soros Foundation–Kyrgyzstan used the film to demonstrate the connections between women's poverty and family violence and the widespread and growing incidence of polygamy in Kyrgyzstan.

MIGRATION FROM CAMEROON TO FRANCE





Many of Africa's poor dream of finding a better life in Europe. Photographer Olivier Jobard followed Kingsley, 23, on his months-long trip from Cameroon to France. The journey started in Limbe, Cameroon, with Kingsley saying goodbye to his parents.



Kingsley and other migrants crossed the Sahara desert in a number of vehicles, including a truck with engine problems.





Kingsley camped out with his fellow travelers in a forest in Morocco, waiting for the next stage of his journey.



A leaky, makeshift boat took the migrants out into the Atlantic, traveling from Morocco to the Canary Islands. Two died when the boat capsized. Kingsley went on to Spain.



At his final destination, Cergy-Pontoise, France, Kingsley worked ten-hour days in a warehouse, commuting a total of three hours to and from his job.



Improving Policy OSI believes that information is crucial to the functioning of open societies. Its programs, as described throughout this report, promote openness in government so that people can participate in decision making on issues that affect their lives. OSI's education programs in 2006 sought to establish new teaching and textbook standards that will open up minds to differing views and critical thinking. The Information Program worked to set international protocols on the Internet for sharing scholarly research. The Media Program continued to support and protect independent media as a check on government and a valuable source of information for the public.

Helping People Access to scientific information, as described in the story in this section, helps people from Malawi in Africa to Kansas in the United States. Mphatso Nguluwe, who teaches at a nursing school, needs the latest information about HIV treatments, and Julia Blixrud wanted to know about treatment options for breast cancer. Students and teachers in programs supported by OSI need access to modern teaching methods, debate and early childhood education, and scholarships and fellowships to expand their knowledge. Journalists in Thailand, the Czech Republic, Indonesia, the Middle East, and elsewhere want help improving their skills and protecting their rights.

EDUCATION, INFORMATION, AND MEDIA

OPEN ACCESS TO SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH:

SHARING INFORMATION, SAVING LIVES

AIDS DEATHS, thousands of them, punctuate Mphatso Nguluwe's memories of her nursing career at the Ekwendeni Hospital in the northern end of Malawi. The AIDS catastrophe has already reduced the average life expectancy in her country to about 37 years. And Nguluwe—a single woman who, at age 38, laughs about being old—is marching at the forefront of the local effort to prevent the epidemic from worsening. Her job is to instruct students at Ekwendeni's nursing school. She is desperate to teach them the best methods available for treating people living with HIV and practical steps HIV-positive mothers can take to reduce the risk of spreading the virus to their infants. She knows that for Malawi's people, some of the poorest in the world, this is a matter of life and death.

Nguluwe does what she can to keep up with the latest medical research on HIV transmission. Her closest access point is an Internet café about 20 kilometers from home. So, once a month or so, she makes the trip in a minibus down a pot-holed asphalt road. If the Internet lines are working on the day she visits, Nguluwe combs the websites of medical journals from the developed world and pores over abstracts of peer-reviewed articles.

The full journal articles Nguluwe needs are just a “click-here-to-purchase” away. But a single article costs more than an average monthly wage in Malawi, and the subscription prices are so high that looking at them is infuriating. So the only way Nguluwe can get the critical information contained in these articles is to rely on a network of friends living abroad. This, she says, can take months or years.

*Without the best information,
“millions more will die.”*

“It is frustrating,” she says. “HIV and AIDS have hit us in Africa the hardest, and it is up to us to learn what we can to fight the disease. If we can't obtain the best information, we can't succeed in our struggle and millions more will die. Some researchers have even come here from abroad to work, gone home, and published their findings; but articles they've written cannot be accessed here.”

Moreover, she says, people have been infected with HIV because medical professionals in Malawi have been unable to access complete information from medical

journals: “I know people working to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV who, on the basis of the abstracts to articles they could not access in full, failed to warn HIV-positive mothers not to combine formula feeding with breast feeding. They did not know that this combination actually increases the risk of passing on the virus. These health workers failed to provide the best advice, because they could not obtain complete copies of the articles they found on the web. They read only the material they could obtain for free. And it did harm, not good.”

Focused on her computer screen in Lawrence, Kansas, Julia Blixrud has collided with the same barrier that so infuriates Nguluwe in Malawi. In the spring of 2004, Blixrud developed breast cancer. Since then, she has wanted to know more about the disease and its treatments than the popular press offers: “You get your first diagnosis, and you dig around to find out about your treatment options. Then you want to know about the different kinds of medications they are going to shove into your body during chemotherapy.”

“The articles on the web are expensive. When I started totaling up the cost, it quickly came to more than a thousand dollars,” says Blixrud, who promotes open access to scholarly publications for an OSI partner, the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition. “Many of the articles I sought were at the university’s medical library in Kansas City. But even the university can’t afford the licenses to give access to some journals to anyone other than doctors, students, and researchers. I also tried to obtain publications through interlibrary loan. But as a member of the general public, and not a faculty member or a student, I would be at the bottom of the list of requestors and I couldn’t wait forever for a document.”

Open access will transfer learning from rich to poor—and poor to rich.

Through its Open Access Initiative, the Open Society Institute is working to help create online access to scholarly publications free of charge, so anyone from Ekwendeni to Kansas City can read, download, copy, distribute, print, search, and link the full texts of articles and use them for any lawful purpose. Removing existing access barriers to the journals, which contain the results of research funded

primarily by taxpayers in the developed world and not by the publishing companies that own the journals and set their prices, will accelerate scientific research efforts and allow authors to reach a larger number of readers.

Allowing open access to these publications will also enrich the educational experiences of millions of students and teachers around the globe. It will inform the common intellectual conversation that is required to build truly open societies. It will transfer learning from rich to poor, and from poor to rich. And in places like Malawi, it can help save lives.

OSI is advocating two complementary strategies to achieve open access to scholarly publications. Both of these strategies can be implemented by scholars who present their research results to the world without expectation of payment, and both can be implemented immediately and without depending upon markets or legislation.

Open access will require new mechanisms to pay for peer review. The first strategy is to provide scholars with the tools and assistance they need to deposit their peer-reviewed journal articles in open electronic archives, repositories from which anyone searching the web can retrieve them. The second is to launch new open access journals and help develop an open access journal system that is financially self-sustaining. New open access journals will no longer invoke copyright to restrict access to the material they publish; instead, open access journals will use copyright and other tools to ensure permanent access, free of charge, to all the articles they publish.

Research shows that the overall costs of providing open access to scholarly publications are far lower than the costs of traditional forms of dissemination, which represents an incentive for professional associations, universities, libraries, foundations, and others to embrace open access as a means of advancing their missions. Achieving open access will, however, require new mechanisms to pay for peer review and other expenses. Alternative sources of funds for this purpose include foundations and governments that fund research, universities and laboratories that employ researchers, endowments, profits from the sale of add-ons to the basic texts, funds freed up by the demise or cancellation of conventional journals charging subscription or access fees, and contributions from researchers themselves. “Our ultimate goal is to have the funding agencies require that

all of the research they support is published in open access journals or available in open access repositories,” says Melissa Hagemann, program manager of OSI’s Open Access Initiative.

Open access has come into its own since December 2001, when OSI sponsored a meeting in Budapest that explored alternative publishing models and produced the first definition of the term “open access.” Today, there are more than 2,700 peer-reviewed open access journals listed on the OSI-sponsored Directory of Open Access Journals.

“This is what open society is all about.”

In the United Kingdom, the Wellcome Trust, a major donor for medical research, has begun requiring that its funded authors make their work publicly available. And traditional publishers have begun embracing open access. Oxford University Press, Springer, and Cambridge University Press have adopted a hybrid model for some of their publications. Elsevier, a journal publisher in the Netherlands, has adopted an open access model for six journals in physics. The world’s largest commercial open access publisher, BioMed Central, has launched more than 150 open access journals. The Moore Foundation and other donors have given significant grants to the Public Library of Science (PLOS), whose open access journals in medicine and biology now compete with top-tier journals in these fields.

The United States Senate has considered a bill that would require 10 of the government’s largest funding agencies, including the National Institutes of Health, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), and the Environmental Protection Agency, to distribute their work through open access archives. OSI is backing the spread of open access to developing countries like Malawi. “This is what open society is all about,” Hagemann says. “So many authors in developing countries do not receive recognition because their work goes unseen.”

Nguluwe agrees. “We need the results of the research being conducted in the developed world. But we also have knowledge to contribute. If we had access to this material, we would be able to give our views on the findings. We would be able to show how treatments devised in the outside world are applicable here and perhaps in other places in the developed world—or how they are not applicable. We can enrich the debate.”

EDUCATION, INFORMATION, AND MEDIA: PROGRAM BRIEFS

Education

Education Support Program

Publication Supports Education Reform Accountability Drive

A coalition of education reform groups in Pakistan published *What Works and Why*, a study of Pakistan schools that laid the groundwork for public debate on education reform. The coalition, supported by OSI, analyzed 48 schools in eight districts across Pakistan to determine the common factors that affect education quality. The study provided knowledge to support a quality education campaign that called for increased accountability and community ownership of education reform processes.

Government Adopts New Social Science Teaching Standards

The Armenian Ministry of Education adopted social science teaching standards developed by the program and the Soros foundation in Armenia. The new standards, which apply to grades 8 and 9, emphasize the use of more student-oriented approaches to teaching the social sciences. The standards are an important first step toward the use of more dynamic, interactive approaches throughout Armenian schools.

Serbian Teachers Join Together to Make Schools More Inclusive

The Soros foundation in Serbia worked with the program to establish

a network of teachers and schools to improve access to regular classrooms for students who are disadvantaged or disabled. The Inclusive Education Network brought together 150 teachers and education experts in 15 towns to ensure that local schools put the government's inclusive education policies into practice.

Tajikistan Establishes New Textbook Standards

Tajikistan's government used criteria developed by the program and the Soros foundation to establish national textbook evaluation standards. The program's recommendations on the training of textbook authors were incorporated into education programs run by the Ministry of Education, the World Bank, and the Asian Development Bank.

Ukraine Reforms Entrance Exams to Combat Bribery

The government introduced national examination reforms after five years of prodding by the Soros foundation in Ukraine. The foundation, with technical support from the program, sought these changes to combat the widespread use of bribery to secure admission to prestigious departments and universities in Ukraine. The new examination reforms will link secondary school-leaving exams with higher education entrance exams.

Roma Education Study Addresses Statistical Gaps

Monitoring Education for Roma: A Statistical Baseline for Central, Eastern, and South Eastern Europe, a publication produced by the program, addresses the continued lack of data on Roma by providing the most comprehensive information to date on Roma and education throughout the region. The report compiles education data from 19 countries on a wide range of indicators including enrollment and completion levels for primary, secondary, and tertiary education. The report will allow advocates to monitor improvements on key Roma education indicators during the Decade of Roma Inclusion.

Higher Education Support Program (HESP)

Academic Fellows Reform University Programs

HESP academic fellows played important roles in establishing the first master of science in social work degree programs in Georgia and Azerbaijan. The fellows created a fieldwork manual and conducted introductory workshops with community agencies that were likely to hire social work program graduates. In Ukraine, three fellows developed a new historical anthropology curriculum. In Macedonia, fellows helped complete curriculum reforms at Ss. Cyril and



Refuge in Learning: A 12-year-old student writes on blackboard at a refugee camp school in Kashmir region of Pakistan devastated by earthquake.

Methodius University in Skopje. The reforms involved the BA program in the Faculty of Law's political science department, where the program supported the placement of five returning scholars who have received full-time positions.

Network Scholarship Programs

New Methodology Challenges Communist-Era Schooling

A teacher in Romania helped stimulate educational reform by developing *Cogito, Ergo Sum!*, a new methodology that challenges the lingering communist legacy of education based on rote memorization. Delia Nita, a scholarship program alumna, designed *Cogito, Ergo Sum!* to bring communicative, interactive teaching methods to Romania's classrooms. Nita taught over 100

students, trained 13 colleagues, and established a summer program to train students and teachers in creative methodologies emphasizing critical thinking.

Scholar Works to Include Gender in Afghan Policies

A program scholar in Afghanistan began helping integrate gender issues into government policy. After studying postwar reconstruction and development at York University in England, Palwasha Hassan returned to her home country Afghanistan to work with a German NGO and several



Educational Toys: Children study and play games with bottle tops in the Nairobi community of Kibera in Kenya.

government ministries, including the Ministry of Women's Affairs and the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development. Hassan bridged the divide of analyst and advisor by reviewing ministry strategy and offering recommendations on how to strengthen the inclusion of gender issues into policy.

Women Farmers Learn Business Basics

Aisuluu Bedelbayeva and Nurbek Teleshaliev, two scholarship recipients from Kyrgyzstan, organized a series of training seminars for farmers in the Issyk-Kul region that aimed to stimulate rural economic

development by giving 30 farmers, 90 percent of whom were female, basic skills in marketing, accounting, and legal matters. Bedelbayeva and Teleshaliev also created a manual so seminar participants could train other farmers in the region, which has had no support services for agrarian businesses.

Joint Gender Studies Program Comes to Caucasus

After completing her stay at the University of California Los Angeles, professor Nino Javakhishvili returned to Tbilisi State University and established the Caucasus's first joint U.S.-Georgian master's

degree program in gender studies. Javakhishvili, as program director, helped translate a gender studies reader to accompany the master's program, and worked to develop a minor in gender studies at the bachelor level.

Debate Program

Environment and Children's Rights Debated in Romania

The program's annual Youth Forum brought students from throughout Central and Eastern Europe to Romania to debate and broaden their understanding of environmental issues and children's rights. The students, many of whom will become community leaders and policymakers in their home countries, debated the privatizing of natural resources and measures to ensure government compliance with the International Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Young Journalists Communicate Across Borders and Cultures

A new project taught young aspiring journalists from Kosovo to Israel how to communicate with each other and report on important stories using inexpensive and readily available technology such as open source software, cell phone cameras, and inexpensive digital audio recorders. Students in Kosovo filed reports on the status talks shaping Kosovo's future; teenagers in Bahrain described the conditions facing guest workers; and Palestinians living in Israel reported on the lives of women in their community. Student photos and stories were presented in papers and on the radio in Israel, Bulgaria, and Macedonia.

Step By Step Program

Eleven-Year-Old Confirms the Importance of Access to Education

"I'd like to be a doctor," declared 11-year-old Natalia, who has cerebral palsy, as she told a conference of education experts that no child should ever be denied an education. The 120 experts from 35 countries gathered in Bratislava at the International Step by Step Association's seventh international conference promoting quality education for all children, particularly those who have disabilities or come from marginalized communities. Natalia, who is conversant in four languages—Ukrainian, Russian, Polish, and English—entered a Step by Step class within a regular school after spending years in a segregated school for disabled children that offered basic education and no chance for going to college.

Growing Effort to Change Teachers' Attitudes Toward Minorities

The Education for Social Justice (ESJ) project worked initially in 14 countries to increase equal opportunities and treatment for Roma schoolchildren by focusing on the biases of teachers and using trainings and workshops to change attitudes. In Kosovo, Step by Step used ESJ to work on negative attitudes among educators toward ethnic minorities. Step by Step also provided a general introduction of the ESJ approach to its network extending across 30 countries.

Information Information Program

Civil Society Groups and Corporations Confront Broadcast Treaty

NGOs supported by the program worked with the U.S. government and several major U.S. technology companies to oppose a draft broadcast treaty under discussion by the World Intellectual Property Organization. After meetings with these NGOs, Intel, AT&T, Verizon Communications, Hewlett Packard, and others came out publicly against the treaty, which would introduce a 50-year monopoly for broadcasters, cablecasters, and webcasters to control the reuse of their aired content. Corporate opponents objected to ambiguities in the treaty and how it could stifle new areas of development. Civil society groups opposed the treaty's restrictions on the reuse of content in the public domain.

Open Access to Scientific Research Gains Momentum

Prominent South African academic and research institutions, the Ukrainian cabinet of ministers, and four out of eight national research councils in the United Kingdom all joined the global movement for open access to publicly funded research. The commitments from the South African National Research Foundation and the Academy of Sciences of South Africa came at the end of an open access workshop organized by the Information Program and OSI's southern Africa initiative. The

Pretoria workshop explored how open access policies could make expensive scholarly content freely available to developing countries while bringing important local content from developing countries to a larger audience.

Software from Prague Helps Global Independent Radio

A software tool developed and released by an Information Program grantee improved the content management and broadcast abilities of independent and community radio stations around the world. Campcaster, a content management software program developed by the Center for Advanced Media in Prague, made it easier for staff at independent and community radio stations in Senegal, Liberia, and Hungary to organize broadcasts of music, news, and interviews. The free, open source software allows managers to store content, review it prior to broadcast, manage stations remotely, and exchange content over the Internet.

Media Media Program

Free Expression Precedent Set in Thailand

A media activist in Thailand won an important case defending journalists and media watchdogs from spurious defamation charges. With legal assistance from the program, media reformer Supinya Klangnarong had all defamation charges brought by the Shin Corporation against her dropped. Shin, once owned by former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra's family, brought the charges when Supinya stated that the company benefited from Thaksin's policies in a 2003 newspaper interview. The ruling set a crucial precedent for the interpretation of defamation laws and constitutional rights to free expression in Thailand.

Roma Media Immigration Coverage Gets Attention

The Roma Press Agency of Slovakia and Dženo Association of the Czech Republic, two Roma groups funded by the program, coproduced a series of articles on Roma immigration and employment discrimination. Shortly afterward, Slovak National Television broadcast discussions on Roma migration from Slovakia to the Czech Republic, and the Slovak Ministry of Labor began to examine the impact of this migration on the Slovak job market.

Media Monitors Challenge Bias in Middle East

A Middle Eastern election and media monitoring group helped local groups monitor election media coverage and expose significant biases in reporting. With program support, the Arab Working Group for Media and Elections developed a monitoring methodology used by NGOs in Egypt, occupied Palestinian Territories, Yemen, and Bahrain that revealed biased election coverage by state media. The monitoring results, presented to the public, various officials, and the Egyptian Ministry of Information, prompted national debates about media professionalism and strengthened relations between media groups and human rights NGOs.

Community Radio Stations Rebuild and Promote Tolerance

The program collaborated with an Indonesian radio network to rebuild stations damaged by natural disasters and promote open society. Working with radio network KBR 68H, the program established an emergency fund that got 11 stations back on the air and provided technical training to staff. The program also helped develop disaster emergency public service announcements and weekly programming promoting ethnic tolerance for KBR 68H's network of over 500 community radio stations.



Watching the News: Kurdish Satellite, preparing for Ashna Abdullah Ghafour's nightly broadcast, is the most widely watched television channel in Iraqi Kurdistan.

OTHER PROGRAMS: BRIEFS

By the end of 2006, the Open Society Institute's Economic and Business Development Program completed its merger with the Soros Economic Development Fund, an independent nonprofit foundation supported by OSI that provides loans, guarantees, and equity investments to financial institutions with strong social missions. Another OSI program, the East East: Partnership Beyond Borders Program, supported 240 opportunities for information/knowledge exchange by entities within the Soros foundations network. In addition to programs in this report, OSI supports the work of many affiliated organizations, including the Central European University, the CEU Press, the Open Society Archives, and Project Syndicate.

Arts and Culture Network Program

Roma Artists Gain International Exposure

Meet Your Neighbors: Contemporary Roma Art from Europe, an art catalogue produced in 2006 by an OSI-sponsored initiative, is one of the first comprehensive collections of Roma contemporary art ever published. The catalogue, produced by the Roma Cultural Participation Project of OSI's Arts and Culture Network Program, is an effort to increase the presence of Roma artists in the European art scene. In another effort, the Venice Biennale accepted the Roma Cultural Participation Project's application for a Roma Pavilion at the 2007 Biennale, giving Roma artists an opportunity

to showcase their talents in a prestigious international arena.

Documentary Film Program Tours Caucasian and Central Asian Cities

"Window to the Open World," a touring film program featuring documentaries about culture and politics in the Caucasus and Central Asia and selected international films from the Margaret Mead Travelling Film Festival, was presented in six capital cities across the region. OSI organized the program as an offshoot of the film festival, which highlights the power of combining film and anthropology. "Window to the Open World" featured a number of documentaries that helped generate public discussion about cultural and political issues.

Film Collection Raises Awareness of Central Asia

OSI supported the production of a Central Asia DVD film collection to help audiences across the world become more aware of the region. The collection, consisting of 10 feature films and 10 documentaries, will focus on how film portrayed societies in the region in the Soviet and post-Soviet periods of the 1960s and 1990s. The feature films portion was completed in 2006 and ready for distribution to libraries, universities, archives, and film festivals in Central Asia, the Caucasus, Europe, and the United States.

Festival Introduces Central Asian Culture to Europeans

The Polyzentral 2006 Performing Arts Festival helped facilitate cultural

understanding and exchange by bringing dance and music from Central Asia, the Middle East, and Turkey to Hamburg, Germany. Held at Kampnagel, a factory-sized cultural center, Polyzentral 2006 grew out of a series of annual international theater meetings sponsored by OSI and featured 10 dance and theater performances, discussions, film screenings, and music events.

East East: Partnership Beyond Borders Program

Moldova and Latvia Share Experiences of Public Participation

One hundred representatives from nongovernmental organizations and local and central authorities in Moldova and Latvia came together to discuss ways to strengthen collaborative efforts fostering democratic transformations in Moldova based on Latvia's experiences. The discussions in Chisinau engaged public attention about major issues of concern in Moldova, including the creation of a favorable environment for debating how civil society may contribute to the implementation of the EU-Moldova Action Plan.

Western Balkans Civil Society Promotes Dialogue with the EU

Forty civil society organizations and networks in the Western Balkans met with representatives of Brussels-based networks to intensify dialogue and cooperation for a stronger partnership between the EU and

NGOs and for the creation of a civil society dialogue between the EU and candidate countries. Cooperation among civil society organizations in the EU and Western Balkans is designed to contribute to a better understanding of their compatible interests and promotion of Western Balkans' achievements as the region's countries advance toward European integration.

Public Policy Standards Discussed at Forum

Participants in a forum organized by the Soros foundation in Kyrgyzstan discussed best practices for promoting the participation of civil society in implementing public policy standards in Central and Eastern Europe with the aim of adopting such practices in Central Asia. A working group of experts was formed to coordinate monitoring activities, including research and analysis, in the area of public policy standards.

Economic and Business Development Program

Soros Economic Development Fund

Grantee Increases Microentrepreneur Access to Financial Services

The Soros Economic Development Fund awarded a grant to Tameer Microfinance Bank of Pakistan to provide its low-income clients access to 1,800 automated teller machines and 15,000 point of sale terminals throughout the country. In 2006,

the Bank was Pakistan's fastest growing microfinance institution with 21,000 borrowing clients and 17,000 depositors across 17 branches in three cities.

Loan Helps Roma Communities Participate in EU Education Programs

Mikrohitel, a Hungarian microfinance lender used a \$500,000 loan from the Soros Economic Development Fund to finance after-school tutoring for Roma and other minority groups throughout Hungary. Borrower community organizations use the funds to cover the start-up costs of qualifying for European Union education grants, expanding much-needed services at no cost to marginalized students.

Programs Develop Roma Financial Planning Skills

The Economic and Business Development Program engaged leading Roma development organizations from Hungary and Slovakia to offer money management training and matched savings accounts to low-income Roma. The programs encourage saving toward, among other things, home renovation or repair, small business start-ups, and vocational certification. The Hungary program opened 60 matched savings accounts by the end of the year, while the Slovakian program procured \$150,000 in cofunding from Habitat for Humanity and prepared to open accounts in 2007.

Microlender Gets USAID Funding for Roma Entrepreneurs

A Bulgarian microfinance institution supported by the Soros Economic Development Fund won a \$175,000 grant from USAID that will allow it to increase support to Roma entrepreneurs. Mikrofond EAD will carry out the project with another Bulgarian microfinance organization and use the new grant to expand its Roma loan program, which currently represents 30 percent of its portfolio.

New Loan Capital Obtained for Depressed Regions in Moldova

Microinvest, a Moldovan microfinance institution and longstanding Soros Economic Development Fund partner, increased its capacity to reach entrepreneurs in economically depressed rural areas by attracting over \$2.5 million in new loan capital. The investments, obtained from various microfinance investment funds, increase Microinvest's loan capital by nearly two-thirds and allow it to add hundreds of new microentrepreneurs to its list of 1,500 clients.

International Policy Fellowships

Studies Prompt Examination of Europe and Islam

Islam and Tolerance in Wider Europe, a publication featuring studies by a number of policy fellows, was the focus of public seminars organized by international policy institutes. The International Policy Fellowships Program, the Woodrow Wilson

International Center for Scholars in Washington, D.C., the Centre for European Policy Studies in Brussels, and the Center for Intercultural Studies and Partnership in Sofia collaborated to bring policymakers and journalists together to explore the publication's central themes. Seminar discussions explored questions such as how postcommunist and postcolonial societies perceive the "global war on terror" and the possible linkages between marginalized Muslim communities and political Islam in Europe.

Fellows Advance Access to Information

As part of a global effort to increase access to online information in developing countries, policy fellows Eve Gray in South Africa and Dick Kawooya in Uganda worked with Prashant Iyengar and group advisor Lawrence Liang in India to provide key policy recommendations to stakeholders and national governments. The fellows cooperated with OSI's Information Program to host a workshop in Bangalore that developed policy guidelines for promoting equitable access to information. In Turkey, policy fellow Yaman Akdeniz's report on using the Internet to improve policymaking prompted significant media attention and public discussion. Akdeniz was also invited by the prime minister to meet with senior officials to discuss his online governance proposals.

Projects Bring Patients' Rights and Palliative Care to South Eastern Europe

Policy fellows in South Eastern Europe helped develop policies and practices that improved public health. Macedonian fellow Neda Milevska-Kostova's project on patients' rights led to her inclusion as a member of the working group drafting Macedonia's first law on patients' rights. Urska Lunder's fellowship work with the Ministry of Health in Slovenia to implement palliative care within the country's health care system earned her a nomination for Slovenian Woman of the Year.



Counting Chickens: Thérèse Kanlinsou raises chickens and sells eggs in her hometown of Cotonou, Benin. Her business has grown from 300 chickens to more than 2,000 with the help of small loans from a microfinance institution.



Young inmates exercise at a boot camp in upstate New York.



U.S. PROGRAMS

Improving Policy The Open Society Institute's U.S. Programs, which celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2006, seeks to promote a fairer justice system, respond to attacks on independent institutions, and build a more humane, effective, and democratic U.S. approach to the world. In the area of justice, for example, OSI supports equal access to the courts, indigent defense services, sentencing policies that reduce incarceration rates, and assistance for people returning from prison. OSI also takes advantage of strategic opportunities to foster progressive leadership and organizations, to defend the integrity of evidence-based science, and to address the issues of race and class that underlie the continuing tragedy exposed by Hurricane Katrina.

Helping People In New Orleans, as the next story describes, OSI supported a safe place for students, returning after the devastation of Hurricane Katrina, to talk and write openly about their feelings and experiences. Other grants also tried to help low-income people in New Orleans by improving policies to deal with basic inequities. In states throughout the country, OSI grantees helped exonerate innocent people after years in prison and restore voting rights for people with felony convictions. Support for an environmental group helped students who wanted to fight greenhouse gas pollution on their campuses. In Baltimore, fewer students were suspended and more students participated in after-school programs.

U.S. PROGRAMS

STUDENTS RETURNING TO NEW ORLEANS:

“EDUCATION ISN’T JUST FOR ME.”



Students Brittany Philson and Deborah Carey with teacher Jim Randels, above. On the following four pages, photographer Clarence Williams, an OSI Katrina Media Fellow, captures scenes from Brittany's life and neighborhood in New Orleans' Ninth Ward: the beauty parlor, the used tire shop, Frederick Douglass High School, and the funeral of her brother-in-law.

FEW CHILDREN lived in New Orleans in November 2005, just a few months after Hurricane Katrina had devastated the city. The public schools were closed with no clear date to reopen, so families who couldn't afford private school had to stay away. That included most students from Frederick Douglass High School in the Upper Ninth Ward. So to see a dozen or so teenagers milling around the school's crumbling Art Deco building in the autumn sun was a remarkable, even moving sight. They had traveled hundreds of miles in car pools and caravans from Georgia, Oklahoma, Texas, and other sites of the Katrina diaspora for a homecoming.

There was no DJ or decorations; the school was locked and abandoned. But some students managed to get inside the band room and drag out instruments, the ones that were up on shelves that the flood waters didn't reach. They banged out drum cadences that bounced off the school's three-story walls and echoed for blocks. The sound carried a simple message, "Hey, we're here," even if only for a little while, for most had to return to their new homes of exile the next day.

The homecoming was organized by Students at the Center, or SAC, an independent media and writing program led by Jim Randels and Kalamu ya Salaam. Randels is a veteran New Orleans public school teacher who



created SAC 10 years ago when he saw the city's approach to failing public schools—creating outposts of refuge through selective-admissions and magnet schools—as a “separate and unequal” system. He aimed to show that even the city's poorest, lowest ranking schools could produce successful, engaged students if afforded the resources to do so. In his English and creative writing courses, Randels cut class sizes in half. He also treated students as a resource for peer teaching and feedback. By teaching them to teach each other, SAC has fostered a community of students invested in their own learning.

Writer, arts producer, and civil rights leader Kalamu ya Salaam joined the program in 1998. He is now codirector. In addition to teaching every day, Salaam has used funding from the Open Society Institute to help students create audio and video projects that have been distributed across the country.

“Showing up every day and changing the system from within is hard.”

Randels and Salaam, asked for samples of SAC's work, supply a thick stack of material, including a book on Homer Plessy (the Creole man arrested in 1892 for boarding a train as a white, just a few blocks away from Douglass), a video in-progress of a performance poem about sexual abuse, and an article on the 50th anniversary of the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision that won a Louisiana Press Award. Both men pointed out that SAC's goal is not to “pump out cool media projects,” but to invest in the lives of students.

“Making the work is the easy part,” says Randels. “Showing up every day and changing the system from within? That's hard.”

At the Douglass homecoming the two men's rapport with the students was immediate, despite the months of being scattered. Out on the asphalt in the shade of the school, the small group formed a circle. They always hold class this way, encouraging teachers, students, and guests to participate as equals. The conversation leaned toward weighty topics like the future of New Orleans schools and



racial inequities exposed by the storm, but talk of romance and parents and hair-do's bubbled up alongside. The strongest writings from SAC reflect this mix, with students using their life experiences to highlight the social issues, history, and literature they explore in class.

Maria Hernandez, then 17, took her turn in the circle to read about her first day as a senior at Douglass, just days before Katrina hit. She told how hard she worked to convince her family to enroll her little brother and sister at Douglass rather than a magnet school:

For the first time in almost four years I'm early. I can usually walk right up to the metal detectors, but today is the first day of school. At 8:05 the line is longer than the line at the welfare office . . .

On this steaming August day, surrounded by the buzz of excited conversation, sweaty foreheads and eager faces, I'm glad to be bringing my siblings to our neighborhood school rather than running away from it. And for their sake and the

sake of all the other ninth graders, it's important for me to be on time.

One reason I'm on time and at Douglass is because of the history I'm studying. In New Orleans, many enslaved Africans escaped plantations but stayed in the area. These maroons knew, like Frederick Douglass knew, that none of us can be free unless all of our people are free. My education isn't just for me it is also for my fellow students.

Maria was supposed to read her essay on National Public Radio, but as she said, "Katrina blew that chance away." Katrina also blew Maria and her family to Tulsa, Oklahoma, where they were bused from the Superdome after being stranded by the storm. It looks like the family is going to stay in Tulsa. Maria's vision of making Douglass a school where her family could thrive has dissolved. As for herself, by now she imagined she'd be a Douglass graduate, attending the University of New Orleans



with her SAC classmates, and serving as a SAC alumnus mentor.

Since she's been in Tulsa, Maria says, she hasn't written anything. She's been held back a year in school, due to the days she missed in the chaos of relocation and the different state education requirements. Her chances of graduating a year late are shaky. While the school in Tulsa is more racially diverse, Maria said that she gets into fights with other students, often over slurs about her Cuban background. There's no outlet like SAC, where she could talk openly about issues like race, and turn her frustration into something productive through writing.

Maria treated Students at the Center "like it was her job," says her best friend in New Orleans, Brittany Philson. Brittany, 18, didn't go to Douglass. She used to take the bus across town to hang out with Maria after school and on weekends. Maria, according to Brittany, would "always be wanting to read me something, or talk about going to meetings, or stay home and write instead of running around." Brittany respected her friend's interest, but didn't understand it.

"If you were ever to get into trouble, she would help you out."

"The truth? I thought y'all was boring," Brittany now says with a sly smile from a circle of desks. Fast forward to spring semester 2007 at a reopened Douglass high school, and Brittany's sitting in a SAC writing class. She wound up at Douglass by default, assigned there when her old school didn't have room. A lot of the school's nearly 850 students got there the same way. Brittany's a gifted writer who's taken Maria's role as the tough, sharp-tongued girl in the group. Every week she has something new to read, writings she works on at the bus stop or during class breaks. Brittany's work is lyrical yet straightforward, taken right from her life.

One recent story described her last memory of her mother:

It was two weeks after my eighth birthday, when I decided to give myself a reality check about the importance of family. Well, not really me, it was my mom who decided. She wanted to talk to me about family on this particular day, since she



noticed that I was constantly getting into fights with my sister who's one year older than me.

She wanted me to come lay down with her while she talked to me. I wanted to tell her no, because she was going to make me lay on her saggy breast that she had all out, and put my leg over her loose booty. But she wasn't going to let me go outside if I said no, so I lay next to her. I knew I wasn't in deep trouble, because I brought home a good report card the day before, so I wasn't really worried about getting my ass whipped. All she told me was "listen to Michelle, because if you were ever to get into trouble she would be there to help you out." And now when I look back all I can say is damn, because she was right about that.

Her mom died later that day, of an aneurysm, and since then Brittany's bounced around between her eight siblings. ("I like to say I raised myself," she says.) All of them now have kids of their own, and one reason she's taken so

strongly to writing with SAC is the attention she gets that's missing at home. The only other place she found that level of encouragement and structure was in Houston, Texas, after Hurricane Katrina, where military recruiters urged her to join the Marines. It's something she still considers, as a way to leave town, get out of poverty, maybe pay for school down the line. Jim Randels and Kalamu ya Salaam are helping her explore other options, from college to work, that could better foster her newfound voice as a writer.

They point out that talent like Brittany's all too often slips through the cracks of the education system, a system that disinvests in schools like Douglass and gives up on poor students all too easily. It shouldn't be left to chance for strong, valuable perspectives like those of Maria Hernandez and Brittany Philson to be heard—not just as teenagers, but as successful, engaged adults.

"The lesson is not to just find the quote-unquote good ones and whisk them away," Randels says. "Every student deserves a class like Students at the Center, every day."

U.S. PROGRAMS: BRIEFS

Justice Fund

Civil Liberties

Court Rules Guantánamo

Military Tribunals Illegal

In a landmark legal decision, the Supreme Court ruled that the special military commissions established by the Bush administration to try detainees held at Guantánamo Bay were illegal under military justice law and the Geneva Conventions. With OSI support, Georgetown University's National Security Fund brought the case, *Hamdan v. Rumsfeld*, challenging the constitutionality of the president's policies regarding detainees.

Groups Defend Privacy Against Government Intrusion

The Transportation Security Administration abandoned Secure Flight, a program that would have checked the name of every domestic airline passenger against commercial databases and terrorist watch lists, following criticism from the Center for Democracy and Technology and other groups concerned with the civil liberties violations of counterterrorism tactics. The center, supported by OSI, was also successful in persuading a federal court in Texas to block the government from tracking the location of a cell phone unless it first obtained a search warrant based on a showing of probable cause.

In addition, the center, along with other advocates, has helped to prevent congressional authorization of warrantless domestic surveillance and immunity for telecom abuses.

Gideon Project

Wrongfully Convicted Prisoners Are Released

DNA evidence, presented in the courts by the Innocence Project, an OSI grantee, exonerated six men who had spent years and decades in prison for crimes they did not commit. One man, who had a history of mental health issues, was convicted of homicide on the basis of a false confession coerced by police. The Innocence Project New Orleans obtained the release of five innocent men, including a man who had been behind bars for 37 years after pleading guilty to avoid the death penalty. OSI supports efforts to expose and address the problem of wrongful convictions.

Katrina Exposes Louisiana's Broken Criminal Justice System

Hurricane Katrina caused the evacuation of some 8,000 mostly indigent pretrial detainees, including 6,375 from the New Orleans jail. Because of Louisiana's systemic failures in tracking detainees and providing them with access to counsel, many pretrial detainees spent more time in jail than they

would have if convicted of the crimes with which they were charged. A number of OSI grantees made indigent defense reform a priority in Louisiana. As a result, the governor has more than doubled the state's budget for indigent defense assistance, and reforms are underway.

Immigrants' Rights

Immigrants Rally for their Rights

Hundreds of thousands of people from immigrant communities demonstrated in cities across the nation for recognition of their rights as people living and working in the United States. Alliances of immigrants' rights groups, faith-based organizations, civil rights groups, and others helped mobilize the massive rallies that increased immigrants' visibility and highlighted their economic and political power. They also had a positive influence on the debate over illegal immigration in Congress, changing its focus from almost exclusively enforcement to also including opportunities for immigrants to legalize their status and reunify family members.

Immigrant Rights Groups Secure Major Supreme Court Victory

Several OSI grantees, including the Immigrant Legal Resource Center, the Immigrant Defense Project of the New York State Defenders Association, and the National Immigration Project

of the National Lawyers Guild, mounted a coordinated litigation effort that culminated in a major U.S. Supreme Court victory in the case of *Lopez v. Gonzales*. The Court rejected the overly harsh position taken by the U.S. government that noncitizens convicted of a first-time offense of simple drug possession have committed a “drug trafficking” aggravated felony and are therefore subject to mandatory deportation. The ruling allows immigration judges to consider the family, employment, and personal ties of such persons to this country and permit them to remain.

A Country of Immigrants: Millions of immigrants marched for their rights during the spring and summer.

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Rights

Mixed Outcomes in Marriage Equality Litigation

The New Jersey Supreme Court ruled unanimously that denying same-sex couples the right to marry is unconstitutional, leaving it to the state legislature to craft an appropriate remedy. The New Jersey legislature then enacted a compromise civil unions law providing all the comparable protections while continuing to deny equal access to the institution of civil marriage. Local advocates, led by Garden State Equality, a grantee of the Civil Marriage Collaborative,

in which OSI participates, vowed to continue their campaign for true marriage equality. High courts in two other closely watched states, Washington and New York, also ruled it was up to their respective state legislatures to address the issue of marriage equality.

Antidiscrimination Protections for Transgender People Advance

New Jersey became the ninth U.S. state, joining California, Hawaii, Illinois, Maine, Minnesota, New Mexico, Rhode Island, and Washington, to make discriminatory practices based on gender identity or expression illegal. A coalition of transgender and LGBT



rights organizations supported by OSI has worked to educate Americans about legal problems confronting transgender people, who face rampant harassment and discrimination in finding and keeping a job, attempting to secure housing, and accessing everyday public accommodations, such as hospitals, schools, shops, hotels, restaurants, and theaters.

Putting a Face on Guantánamo: Attorney Sarah Havens shows two pictures of detainee Abdulaziz Al Swidi as a boy and young man (top).

Racial Justice

Campaign Helps Win Reauthorization of Voting Rights Act

OSI partnered with the Ford Foundation and the Carnegie Corporation of New York to support a national education campaign on the reauthorization of the Voting Rights Act. The act works to eliminate racial discrimination in voting and increase civic participation among minority groups in the United States as guaranteed by the Fifteenth Amendment. The campaign's public education, research, and scholarship efforts contributed to support for reauthorization. The reauthorization

act that was signed into law included an increase in language access at the voting booth.

Coalition Fights Baltimore Housing Segregation in Court

The Citizens Planning and Housing Association in Baltimore led a coalition that successfully sued the U.S. Housing and Urban Development Department for years of policies that effectively segregated poor minority families in Baltimore City. The ACLU of Maryland and the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund won a favorable decision in late 2005 and argued the remedy phase of the trial in the summer of 2006 with a final decision expected in 2007.



Sentencing and Incarceration Alternatives Project

Aggravated Battery Charges Reduced in Peoria Schools

From the 2004/05 school year to the 2005/06 school year, Peoria, Illinois, saw a 35 percent reduction in the number of youth referred to juvenile detention upon a charge of aggravated battery. The reduction resulted from policy and data analysis funded by OSI that bolstered efforts of a coalition of nonprofit groups committed to reforming the city's juvenile justice system. Aggravated battery is the most frequent charge that removes youth from school and sends them into the justice system.

Report Documents High Cost of Drug War

A new report, *Treatment Instead of Prisons: A Roadmap for Sentencing and Correctional Policy*, found that substance-related offenses accounted for 60 percent of prison population growth over the past half-decade in Wisconsin. African Americans were imprisoned for drug offenses at nearly 40 times the rate of non-Hispanic whites. The study concluded that Wisconsin could reduce its nonviolent prison population by up to 1,500 prisoners and create annual savings of \$43 million by expanding the availability of quality treatment, supervision, and services for nonviolent drug defendants. *Treatment Instead of Prisons* was released by OSI grantee Justice Strategies in collaboration with the Drug Policy Alliance and

WISDOM, an interfaith advocacy organization.

Soros Justice Fellowships

Film Draws Attention to Wrongful Convictions

Soros Justice Fellows Ricki Stern and Annie Sundberg, both filmmakers, brought the issue of wrongful conviction to the big screen with their documentary *The Trials of Darryl Hunt*, which premiered at the 2006 Sundance Film Festival. The film played across the United States and internationally, educating policymakers and the public about the role of race in criminal justice outcomes and the inadequacies of an underfunded indigent defense system. OSI supports efforts that draw attention to the prevalence of wrongful convictions and the myriad other problems plaguing the criminal justice system.

Conference Discusses Safeguarding of Human Rights in Prisons

Soros Justice Fellow Michele Deitch, a scholar and advocate, organized a conference of over 100 U.S. and international advocates, policymakers, corrections officials, lawyers, judges, journalists, scholars, and formerly incarcerated people to discuss ways of safeguarding human rights in U.S. prisons. OSI works to reduce the United States' overreliance on incarceration as a response to complex social, economic, and public health problems, such as

racial inequality, poverty, and addiction.

Crime Survivors Organize for Public Safety

Progressive justice reform advocates and crime victims' advocates have typically stood on opposite sides of the crime policy spectrum. Soros Justice Fellow Arwen Bird, a crime survivor herself, organized progressive crime survivors in Portland, Oregon, to participate in policy discussions about sentencing and public safety. Her group, Crime Survivors for Public Safety, facilitated dialogues between disparate groups such as the American Civil Liberties Union and Families and Friends of Violent Crime Victims, the largest conservative advocacy organization in the state of Washington, in an effort to build bridges and promote public safety.

The After Prison Initiative

Census Bureau Counts Incarcerated People in the Wrong Communities

A compelling report—commissioned by the Census Bureau and authored by the National Academies' National Research Council—found that the Census Bureau's practice of counting people in prison as residents of the communities in which they are incarcerated created "political inequities in redistricting." The National Research Council called for the Census Bureau to begin collecting the home addresses of people in prison and to study



Growing Up: A young father, who did not finish high school and spent time in prison, struggles to raise his daughter.

whether home addresses should be used in the census. The report's recommendations were informed by the Prison Policy Initiative, an OSI grantee, whose research demonstrates how the Census Bureau's policy undermines democracy by unfairly depriving high incarceration communities of political representation while overrepresenting rural prison communities.

***“Million Dollar Blocks”
Spur Move to Reinvest
Justice Resources***

Columbia University's Spatial Information Design Lab and the Justice Mapping Center, both OSI grantees, created maps of the geography of incarceration and return in New York, Phoenix, New Orleans, Wichita, and New Haven. The maps included “million dollar blocks” in Brooklyn, New York, single city blocks in which the incarceration of residents is so dense that the state spends in excess of a million dollars a year to incarcerate people from

that block. At a full-day workshop on justice mapping, government officials and civil society advocates discussed how excessive prison spending might be reallocated for reinvestment in the civil institutions and infrastructure of such neighborhoods.

***Voting Rights Restored for
People with Felony Convictions***

An estimated 5.3 million Americans denied the right to vote by felony disenfranchisement laws won a series of victories restoring their voting rights. Voters in Rhode Island, legislators in Florida, New York, and

Tennessee, and courts in California and Washington all lifted restrictions on the voting rights of people with felony convictions. The California case, brought by the ACLU of Northern California, an OSI grantee, and the Social Justice Law Project, restored voting rights to as many as 100,000 people. The Sentencing Project, an OSI grantee, released a report showing that, since 1997, 16 states have reformed state laws that limit voting rights and more than 600,000 people in seven states have had their voting rights restored.

Government Provides Public Service for People with Criminal Records

For the first time, federal agencies are bringing people with criminal records into public service through funding for the Civic Justice Corps (CJC), whose members work with other community residents on revitalization projects in high incarceration neighborhoods. The Corps Network, an OSI grantee, is managing sizeable grants from AmeriCorps and the U.S. Department of Labor for CJC sites in 14 cities, paving the way for institutionalization of CJs across the country. Seeded by OSI, the CJC provides education, work, and public service opportunities to currently and formerly incarcerated people, promoting an alternative to normal probation and parole policies that are punitive and oriented toward surveillance.

Strategic Opportunities Fund

Documenting Oral History in the Gulf Region

In May 2006, StoryCorps, an organization that inspires and trains people to record their oral histories, took a mobile recording booth to New Orleans, Louisiana, and other locations in the Gulf Coast to document the experiences of residents affected by hurricanes Katrina and Rita. With the help of local radio stations and local educational institutions, StoryCorps reached out to and collected stories from over 175 individuals. OSI's support of StoryCorps is part of nearly \$3 million in grants awarded to rebuild the region.

Katrina Prompts Dialogue on Inequality in U.S.

A year after Hurricane Katrina and other storms devastated the Gulf Coast, OSI's U.S. Programs awarded 31 media grants to promote and sustain a national conversation on racism and inequality in America. In addition to the Katrina Media Fellowships, which include print, radio, film, photography, and youth journalists, OSI is supporting 15 Gulf Coast nonprofits working to rebuild and revitalize the region.

Students Speak Up on Global Warming

With support from OSI, the Energy Action Coalition launched the Campus Climate Challenge to stop global warming by fighting for 100

percent clean energy policies at colleges and high schools across Canada and the United States. As a result of pressure from students, several institutions—including New York University, Duke's Fuqua School of Business, Central Oregon Community College, and Bowdoin College—have pledged to purchase at least 75 percent of their power from clean sources.

Youth Leaders Force Florida to Act on Boot Camp Death of Teenager

In January 2006, 14-year-old Martin Lee Anderson died after a brutal beating by authorities at a publicly funded boot camp in Florida. A second autopsy, forced by the release of a videotape, concluded that the cause of death was suffocation. A lack of state action prompted student leaders Monique Gillum and Gabe Pendas to help organize a sit-in at the state capitol, forcing the resignation of Florida's law enforcement commissioner and the closing of juvenile boot camps in the state. Gillum is a fellow of Young People For, a program of the People For the American Way Foundation, an OSI grantee. Pendas is the vice president of the United States Student Association Foundation, also an OSI grantee.

Campaign Helps Save Critical Census Bureau Data

President Bush's 2007 budget called for the elimination of the Census Bureau's Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), a longitudinal data set that is critical

for assessing the effectiveness of government programs that enable families to maintain a decent standard of living and achieve some degree of financial security. The Center for Economic and Policy Research, with OSI funding, initiated a campaign to save the program, obtaining the support of the conservative Heritage Foundation and hundreds of economists and policy analysts. Congress chose to maintain funding for SIPP in the 2007 budget.

Report Draws Attention to Economic Inequities

The Economic Policy Institute released its annual *The State of Working America 2006/2007* report, which drew national attention to the failure of U.S. wages to match increases in productivity. The report received coverage from the *New York Times*, CBS Radio, Public News Service Radio, *Marketplace*, *Good Morning America*, the *Today Show*, and the *Colbert Report*.

Magazine Creates Oral History of Journalism in Iraq

OSI grantee *Columbia Journalism Review* was a finalist for a National Magazine Award for “Into the Abyss: Reporting Iraq 2003–2006.” The article from the November 2006 issue, the magazine’s 45th anniversary issue, is an oral history of the journalism of the war, based on interviews with 45 reporters, producers, and photographers who covered it. “Into the Abyss,” which will be published in an expanded book form in fall 2007, describes the



Reporting the War: New York Times correspondent Richard A. Oppel, Jr., runs for his life in Iraq.

obstacles and dangers journalists faced while covering the war.

Scientist Protests NASA's Censorship Attempts

James E. Hansen, the director of the Goddard Institute for Space Studies at NASA, protested attempts to silence him after officials at NASA ordered him to refer press inquiries to the public affairs office and required the presence of a public affairs representative at any interview. The Government Accountability Project, a whistleblower protection organization and OSI grantee, came to Hansen's defense by providing legal and media advice. The campaign on Hansen's behalf resulted in a decision by NASA to revisit its media policy.

Report Documents Special Interest Meddling in Judicial Elections

A report issued by the Justice at Stake Campaign, an OSI grantee, warned that special interest pressure is "metastasizing into a permanent national campaign against impartial justice." Judicial campaign fundraising records were shattered in five states. Median fundraising by judicial candidates also reached an all-time high, while special interest groups poured millions of dollars into independent ad campaigns. Special interests also stepped up efforts to pressure candidates into making statements on the campaign trail that could appear to bias the judges before they take their seats on the bench.

Voters Reject Political Tampering with the Courts

Voters in five states soundly rejected measures that would have limited judicial independence after civic and legal organizations supported by OSI mounted education campaigns about the importance of an independent judiciary. In South Dakota, an egregious "Jail 4 Judges" measure would have stripped judges' legal immunity against lawsuits and established "special grand juries" to consider criminal charges against judges. In Montana, a measure would have enabled recall of judges for any reason. In Colorado, Hawaii, and Oregon, voters considered measures affecting term limits and judicial districting widely understood as ways to "rein in the judges."

Ethnic Media Recognized in National Awards Ceremony

New America Media, an OSI grantee, launched the first ever National Ethnic Media Awards with a powerful tribute to ethnic media's role in American journalism before an elite Washington, D.C., audience of journalists, media policymakers, politicians, and advocates. Dennis Romero of *Tu Ciudad* magazine and Ray Hanania, an Arab American columnist for a Jewish publication and website, were among the 23 first-place winners. "Ethnic media has come to Washington," said Sandy Close, executive director of New America Media. "Our challenge is to make mainstream media more ethnic, and ethnic media more mainstream."

OSI—Baltimore

New Effort Seeks to Reduce School Suspensions

OSI—Baltimore and its partners initiated a \$1.5 million effort to reduce the city's more than 22,000 school suspensions by introducing programs that improve the school environment and provide positive conflict resolution alternatives to the destructive disciplinary tool of suspension. Funding went to an initiative for recess in schools, restorative justice programs, and mental health counseling.

After-school Programs Reach 8,000 Children in Baltimore

To increase the quantity and quality of after-school programs in Baltimore, the Safe and Sound Campaign launched BLAST, Baltimore's Literacy in After School Time program, a research-based effort shown to increase children's skills in and enthusiasm for reading. The campaign, supported by OSI, resulted in more than \$5 million in new city funding. Safe and Sound—sponsored after-school programs reached nearly 8,000 or 10 percent of Baltimore's public school children in 2006, providing them with safe, enriching activities and improving their attendance and attachment to school.

Drug Treatment Efforts Expand Citywide and Nationally

Funding a series of grants in community drug treatment centers and hospitals, OSI—Baltimore supported efforts to

use buprenorphine, an effective medication for heroin addiction. The Baltimore City Health Commissioner implemented a new, citywide program to recruit and train doctors to prescribe the medication. In light of Baltimore's success, George Soros pledged \$10 million for a national drug treatment initiative. Coordinated by OSI-Baltimore, the initiative will focus on the treatment gap and enable qualified cities and states to build upon effective strategies. At a conference cosponsored by OSI-Baltimore, participants from around the nation shared best practices in drug addiction treatment.

New Parole Guidelines Lower Prison Population

Maryland's revised parole guidelines and risk assessment instrument have increased the rate of parole grants and helped lower the state's prison population. OSI-Baltimore worked in partnership with the Maryland Parole Commission to engage the research center JFA Associates to evaluate the old guidelines and recommend reforms that would lead to a more rational system of determining parole eligibility and more accountability in the parole grant process.

OSI-Washington, D.C.

Defense Department Issues Guidelines to Comply with Geneva Conventions

The McCain Amendment, passed by Congress in late 2005, imposes a worldwide ban on cruel and inhumane interrogation techniques and requires that all Department of Defense interrogations be conducted in accordance with the U.S. Army Field Manual. OSI-D.C. and other groups demanded full, good faith implementation of the law and defeated proposals that would weaken the field manual. Their efforts resulted in the Defense Department announcing that the treatment of all detainees would comply with the minimum standards required by the Geneva Conventions.

Democratic Nations Elected to UN Human Rights Council

OSI and its partners encouraged democratic states with positive human rights records to seek membership on the UN's new Human Rights Council and to support democratic candidates in the competitive elections. Many influential nations announced that they would only vote for countries with good human rights records. As a result, 37 of the 47 members elected are democracies. OSI continues to work with human rights advocacy groups from every region to help move the new council in a constructive direction.

Court Drops Case Against Zimbabwe Radio Station

When Bella Matambanadzo, a staff member of the Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa and a trustee of Zimbabwe's Radio Voice of the People, came to Washington, she and other radio station trustees were facing trumped-up charges for illegal broadcasting. During her visit, arranged by OSI, Matambanadzo spoke to a wide range of groups and gave interviews about the censorship and repression of independent media in Zimbabwe. OSI wrote to the African Union's Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression to investigate the charges. The case was dropped after the radio station's trustees appeared repeatedly in court to defend themselves only to find that government lawyers were not yet ready to prosecute.

OSI Calls Attention to Discriminatory Crack Law

According to the nonpartisan United States Sentencing Commission, no single law has contributed more to the racial disparity in U.S. incarceration rates than the grossly disproportionate sentences established 20 years ago for the use of crack and powder cocaine. These laws created a 100:1 disparity between the amount of crack cocaine and powder cocaine required to receive identical sentences. OSI has organized a coalition to educate policymakers and the public about the extraordinarily negative impact of the crack/powder cocaine law.

GARA LAMARCHE:

PARTING WORDS

Gara LaMarche, who directed OSI's U.S. Programs since its beginnings in 1996, resigned in March 2007 to become president and chief executive officer of The Atlantic Philanthropies. These "parting words" are excerpted from the U.S. Programs' Tenth Anniversary Report, which can be found at www.soros.org.

It has been an extraordinary privilege to serve as the director of OSI's U.S. Programs for more than a decade. We accomplished a great deal in that time. We helped create a vibrant network of urban debate leagues. We helped change the way American culture, policy, and medical practice deals with the end of life. We opened up a debate about drug policy and its consequences, including an appallingly high rate of imprisonment. We sparked and helped to sustain a movement to restore full voting rights for former prisoners. We helped to create mapping tools to document, and then to incubate the concept of "justice reinvestment"—capturing criminal justice spending for social investments that deter crime and incarceration.

We have been instrumental in the beginning of a turnaround for one American city, Baltimore, and in so doing have modeled an approach that other cities, and other philanthropies, might emulate. We have fostered a network of youth media practitioners whose voices have improved the way society looks at young urban people of color, contributed new perspectives to public policy debates, and sowed the seeds for the next generation of journalists. We provided backing for an immigrant rights movement that is one of the most exciting and inspiring examples of civic engagement in the United States today. We stood with those seeking to uphold civil liberties in the dark days after September 11, and helped them hold the line in many ways.

We were critical in helping bring into being several new and promising organizations that fill important gaps in the progressive policy infrastructure—organizations such as the American Constitution Society for Law and Policy and the Brennan Center for Justice.

There are, of course, a few things that I regret. I wish we had embraced an explicit racial justice analysis much earlier in our criminal justice and other work, since no strategy that fails to take account of this reality can be truly effective. I wish we had done the same with gender, too often ghettoized in our extremely important work to protect abortion rights and promote emergency contraception and other measures to change the dynamics of the reproductive rights debate. I wish we did more to recognize and harness the role of culture, particularly popular culture, as a tool for social change.

The good work we accomplished came through the support of our farsighted trustees, the expertise, energy, and strategic savvy of our terrific staff, and the passionate commitment and honest advice of hundreds of grantees, fellows, and advisers. I am grateful to all of them. I know that they and OSI will rise to the new challenges that emerge in the decades ahead.



Eric Gottesman received a Documentary Photography Project distribution grant for outdoor installations in Ethiopia of his exhibition on AIDS and stigma in that country. Above, visitors view the show in Babile.



ADVOCACY | COMMUNICATIONS

Advocacy that furthers open society policies and practices is a priority of the Open Society Institute and the Soros foundations network. In addition to the advocacy efforts described elsewhere in this report, OSI, through its offices and the Soros foundations, initiates and coordinates advocacy campaigns on issues of concern. OSI's Office of Communications works on collaborative advocacy campaigns and raises awareness among policymakers and the public about OSI's issues, activities, and views through media outreach, publications, and the OSI website. OSI also supports documentary photography as an important way to advocate for social causes, organizing exhibitions and funding distribution programs through its Documentary Photography Project.

ADVOCACY CAMPAIGNS

Monitoring the Fairness of the Khmer Rouge Tribunal

The Open Society Justice Initiative since 2003 has provided expert advice, technical assistance, and public support to the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia, the court mandated to try those most responsible for the atrocities committed in the 1970s by the Khmer Rouge. When the court's rules of procedure remained undecided, the Justice Initiative pressed for all parties to reach a consensus. The Justice Initiative called for an investigation of allegations that Cambodian employees of the court were being forced to pay kickbacks to the government officials who appointed them. The government threatened to expel the Justice Initiative from Cambodia, but an advocacy campaign by OSI offices in Brussels, Washington, D.C., and London and the OSI Office of Communications brought pressure to bear on the government from international organizations, NGOs, ministries, and diplomats, allowing Justice Initiative staff to continue monitoring the work of the tribunal.

Influencing the EU's Strategy on Central Asia

OSI's advocacy campaign seeks to influence the European Union's preparation of a new strategy for its relations

with Central Asia. Instead of focusing on energy and security concerns, the EU should place respect for human rights and the rule of law at the center of its strategy. OSI elaborated its views in a policy paper that included recommendations on initiatives in education, public health, revenue transparency, the rule of law, and media freedom. OSI delivered its message through media outreach, contacts with EU foreign policy officials, a conference in early 2007, and a tour of European capitals by Central Asian civil society activists. As with other OSI advocacy campaigns, this effort included numerous partners (from the International Crisis Group to Publish What You Pay) and more than a dozen OSI and Soros foundations network entities (three foundations in Central Asia, six OSI programs and projects, OSI offices in Brussels, Washington, D.C., and London, the OSI Office of Communications, and others).

Opposing Human Rights Abuses in Zimbabwe

The human rights situation continued to deteriorate in Zimbabwe in 2006 and early 2007. The government of President Robert Mugabe has harassed and arrested staff of the independent Radio Voice of the People, which receives funding from the Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa (OSISA). Bella Matambanadzo, OSISA's Zimbabwe program manager and one of the radio station's trustees, raised public awareness of the government's repression of the media on visits to Washington, D.C.

In early 2007, OSI organized public forums and media interviews for Grace Kwinjeh, an opposition party leader who was one of many party members arrested and beaten by police during a rally in Zimbabwe. OSI's advocacy campaign, calling for an end to human rights abuses and the holding of free and fair elections in Zimbabwe, has involved OSI offices in Brussels, Washington, D.C., and London, as well as OSISA, the Communications Office, and AfriMAP.

Other advocacy campaigns include support for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria, Turkey's entry into the European Union, transparency in the management of extractive industries revenue, and the elimination of ethnic profiling in Europe.

OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

Communications plays a central role in the work of the Open Society Institute and the Soros foundations. The Office of Communications coordinates and strengthens the public presence of OSI's global network, increasing the capacity of OSI programs and Soros foundations to advance open society and counter attacks from opponents. The Communications Office aggressively promotes the network's many noteworthy achievements across a range of issues, from widely supported education initiatives to more controversial harm reduction programs.

In the course of the year, the Communications Office produced dozens of press releases and op-eds, arranged interviews for OSI staff with reporters and editors, and trained OSI and Soros foundation staff in working with the media. The Communications Office also produced more than 30 publications, including major policy reports, such as the Public Health Watch's TB monitoring reports, which anchored a major advocacy campaign. Similar collaborative program/communications efforts are described throughout this report. At the beginning of 2007, the Communications Office increased its media training initiatives and web-based multimedia efforts to further strengthen OSI advocacy.

DOCUMENTARY PHOTOGRAPHY PROJECT

Through grantmaking, exhibitions, and training workshops, the Documentary Photography Project supports photographers whose work addresses social justice and human rights issues. The project provides competitive grants to photographers who, in collaboration with partner organizations, present their work to specific audiences to stimulate positive social change. In 2006, the project awarded eight grants for photography on immigrant experiences in Greece and the United States, life in the townships of Cape Town, South Africa, abandoned parks in New York, cancer survivors, victimization of women, and the impact of oil development on the Amazon. Many of the photography projects will be shown in the affected communities and in outdoor settings.

Since its inception in 1998, the photography exhibition Moving Walls has presented 12 shows and the work of over 70 photographers whose creative visual interpretations of the obstacles to social justice provoke debate and promote social change. In 2006, OSI began touring an international version of Moving Walls in the Middle East, Central Asia, and the Caucasus in partnership with other OSI programs. The international exhibition includes training workshops for local photographers.

Many of the photographs in this report, including the portfolios on China and Migration from Cameroon to France, are the work of Moving Walls photographers, and the collaborative behind Brazil's Favelas received a distribution grant.



OPEN SOCIETY INSTITUTE

The Open Society Institute (OSI) works to build vibrant and tolerant democracies whose governments are accountable to their citizens. Open societies are characterized by the rule of law; respect for human rights, minorities, and a diversity of opinions; democratically elected governments; market economies in which business and government are separate; and a civil society that helps keep government power in check.

To achieve its mission, OSI seeks to shape public policies that assure greater fairness in political, legal, and economic systems and safeguard fundamental rights. On a local level, OSI implements a range of initiatives to advance justice, education, public health, and independent media. At the same time, OSI builds alliances across borders and continents on issues such as corruption and freedom of information. OSI places a high priority on protecting and improving the lives of marginalized people and communities.

Investor and philanthropist George Soros in 1993 created OSI as a private operating and grantmaking foundation to support his foundations in Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. Those foundations were established, starting in 1984, to help countries make the transition from communism. OSI has expanded the activities of the Soros foundations network to encompass the United States and more than 60 countries in Europe, Asia, Africa, and Latin America. Each Soros foundation relies on the expertise of boards composed of eminent citizens who determine individual agendas based on local priorities.

OSI and the Soros foundations have given away nearly \$6 billion to build open, democratic societies, including \$417 million in 2006 (*see Expenditures, page 139*).

OPEN SOCIETY INSTITUTE (NEW YORK)

The Open Society Institute's office in New York is the headquarters for both OSI and the Soros foundations network. It provides the other OSI offices, affiliated organizations, and Soros foundations with administrative, financial, and technical support. It is also the hub of communications for the entire network and the main grant-giving center. OSI's offices in Brussels, Budapest, London, Paris, and Washington, D.C., are described on

the following pages. Their activities, like the activities described throughout this report, reflect the programmatic priorities and strategic planning of OSI's New York directors and staff.

The Open Society Institute administers a number of large initiatives from New York. These include the Open Society Justice Initiative, the Public Health Program, the Central Eurasia Project/Middle East and North Africa Initiative, the Burma Project/Southeast Asia Initiative, the Scholarship Programs, and the Women's Program. The New York office operates programs in the United States that focus on justice issues and take advantage of strategic opportunities in other areas of concern. The office is home to independent organizations that spun off from OSI programs, such as the Revenue Watch Institute, or that absorbed other OSI programs, such as the Soros Economic Development Fund. Descriptions of the work of these organizations, initiatives, and the U.S. Programs can be found elsewhere in this report. OSI in New York also supports a number of civil society activities in Russia.

OPEN SOCIETY INSTITUTE–BRUSSELS

The Open Society Institute–Brussels fosters cooperation between the Soros foundations network and partners in western Europe. It also acts as a liaison office to facilitate collaboration between the network and the various institutions of the European Union, the Council of Europe, and the OSCE, as well as bilateral donors and nongovernmental organizations. OSI–Brussels assists the Soros foundations network with their efforts to increase collaboration with donors, and informs partner organizations about the mission, activities, and methods of the network. In addition, OSI–Brussels works to influence EU policies and raise awareness in European institutions, governments, and opinion-making circles about issues of concern to the network.

In 2006, the office advocated for dedicated human rights and democracy funding in the 2007–2013 EU budget; worked to align EU policies and funding with the priorities of the Decade of Roma Inclusion in areas such

as microfinance for Roma entrepreneurship; and supported efforts to make the European Neighbourhood Policy an effective mechanism for democratization in countries to the east and south of the EU. OSI–Brussels also promoted a balanced debate on Turkey's EU membership bid and advocated for a clearer and more constructive EU role in the discussions on the future status of Montenegro.

Other office activities included support for EU NGO funding reform, strong conditionality on upgrades in EU trade relations with Turkmenistan, increasing EU contributions to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria; and advocacy for the establishment of a European standard against ethnic profiling. OSI–Brussels also helped create a coalition of NGOs in the EU and South Eastern Europe for clean air and fair energy; and contributed to the European Commission's annual reports monitoring reforms in acceding, candidate, and potential candidate countries.

The office facilitated discussion of crucial issues by organizing meetings and debates in Brussels involving network offices, grantees, civil society leaders, and representatives from European institutions and policy centers. Meetings focused on Europe's relations relative to countries ranging from the Democratic Republic of Congo to Uzbekistan and on issues such as Muslims in Europe and revenue transparency in natural resource extraction industries. Throughout the year, OSI–Brussels hosted short-term fellows from the Soros foundations network to build understanding and capacity in working with European institutions.

OPEN SOCIETY INSTITUTE–BUDAPEST

Initiatives based at OSI–Budapest include the Arts and Culture Network Program, the EU Monitoring and Advocacy Program, the International Higher Education Support Program, the Human Rights and Governance Grants Program, the Local Government and Public Service Reform Initiative, and the Open Society Mental Health Initiative. The Budapest office, together

with the CEU Center for Policy Studies, supports the International Policy Fellowships program.

The Roma Initiatives Office at OSI–Budapest guides and coordinates OSI programs and grantmaking that seek to improve the situation of the Roma in Central and Eastern Europe, with a special emphasis on the Decade of Roma Inclusion. Budapest-based Roma initiatives include the Roma Participation Program and the Roma Memorial University Scholarship Program. Selected activities of OSI–Budapest programs are described throughout this report.

OSI–Budapest is located in the Central European University complex, and its programs often share resources with CEU.

OPEN SOCIETY FOUNDATION–LONDON

The Open Society Foundation–London is an independent UK charity that houses various network programs and OSI-supported initiatives described elsewhere in this report, including the East East: Partnership Beyond Borders Program, the Media Program, the Information Program, AfriMAP (the Africa Governance Monitoring and Advocacy Project), the international advocacy director of the Soros foundations network, and the international coordinator of the Publish What You Pay coalition. The Open Society Justice Initiative, Scholarship Programs, and Step by Step Program have staff members at the London office.

The office collaborates with the Soros foundations network and partners in the United Kingdom, including the British government and London-based NGOs. OSF–London assists OSI programs and Soros foundations in building donor partnerships and serves as a channel for information and contacts. The office also develops coalitions with long-term NGO partners and raises awareness in UK policy circles about issues of concern to the Soros foundations network.

In 2006, OSF–London hosted a series of OSI visitors and meetings on a variety of topics, including a strategy meeting on the network’s work related to natural resource revenue transparency and accountability and a joint Network Media Program and AfriMAP meeting on

public service broadcasting in sub-Saharan Africa. In close collaboration with OSI–Brussels, the international advocacy director engaged in initiatives related to the European Union and neighboring states, including continuing European support for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, promoting anticorruption practices in natural resource extraction industries, and advocating for a clearer and more constructive EU role in discussions on the future status of Montenegro.

The office also worked with network colleagues to evaluate existing OSI policy efforts and create strategic frameworks for campaigns related to ethnic profiling conducted by European law enforcement agencies.

OPEN SOCIETY INSTITUTE–PARIS

The Open Society Institute–Paris acts as a liaison and resource office for the Open Society Institute and the Soros foundations network. The office also acts as the OSI board liaison office and helps Soros foundations implement appropriate board rotation procedures. In 2006, OSI–Paris assisted with board rotations at foundations in Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Tajikistan, and Ukraine. OSI–Paris is also part of OSI’s Conflict of Interest Evaluation Committee.

The Open Society Institute–Paris runs the Belarus Project, which was initiated in 1997 when the Belarus Soros Foundation was forced to close. During 2006, the project continued to foster open society in Belarus by enhancing civic culture and supporting work that provides immediate benefits to Belarusian society and prepares the country for a democratic future. The Belarus Project supported the establishment and protection of citizen-controlled “civic spaces” where civil society and independent media could develop.

The Paris office also works with OSI’s Uzbekistan Committee, which was started in 2004 after the forced closure of the Soros foundation in Uzbekistan. The Uzbekistan Committee reviews and guides network efforts to promote open society in Uzbekistan.

OPEN SOCIETY INSTITUTE– WASHINGTON, D.C.

The Open Society Institute–Washington, D.C., works to promote a just and open society in the United States and to encourage U.S. policies that support democracy, human rights, and the rule of law abroad. Some of the activities summarized here can also be found on page 124.

In 2006, OSI–D.C. was deeply involved in debates over the proper balance between security and the freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution and international law on issues such as the proper treatment of detainees, prohibitions on torture, and constitutional limits on surveillance. President Bush’s decision to publicly acknowledge that the United States had been holding terrorism suspects in secret prisons without Red Cross access and to defend the use of abusive interrogation techniques highlighted the need to help raise public awareness and educate policymakers on U.S. legal obligations and how the government’s actions damage U.S. credibility.

OSI–D.C. helped organize efforts to demand implementation of the McCain Amendment, which imposes a worldwide ban on all cruel and inhumane interrogation techniques, and encouraged an active and independent role for the Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties and the Inspector General’s Office at the Department of Homeland Security.

The office worked to promote awareness of the vital importance of judicial independence and a careful examination of U.S. immigration policies.

Because OSI is active in many parts of the world, it engages the U.S. government on a wide variety of issues, ranging from encouraging constructive U.S. support for democratic change in Liberia, highlighting human rights abuses in Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan, raising the vital need to support civil society organizations in Afghanistan, and opposing repression in Zimbabwe and other countries.

OSI–D.C. supported efforts by Iraq Revenue Watch to promote transparency in the Iraqi petroleum sector and equitable distribution of oil revenues. The Washington office has worked to encourage selection of democratic

states to the new UN Human Rights Council and vigorous diplomacy to help move the new council in a constructive direction. The office also collaborated with OSI’s Public Health Program to highlight the AIDS epidemic and to increase awareness about HIV/AIDS in regions like the former Soviet Union, where some of the world’s fastest HIV/AIDS growth rates are fueled primarily by injecting drug use.

OSI–D.C.’s domestic policy activities included the introduction of the D.C. Community Grants Initiative, which issued its first four grants to local nonprofit groups working on civic engagement and leadership for D.C. youth, prisoner reentry, strengthening working-poor families, and HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention. During the year, the Washington office worked with a broad coalition of religious and political leaders to educate the public and policymakers on the challenges of reintegrating formerly incarcerated people into society. The coalition also engaged in advocacy on the injustices caused by the mandatory minimum sentences and the racially disparate impact of radically different penalties for the use of crack and powder cocaine.

The Open Society Policy Center, a nonpartisan public policy organization established under 501(c)(4) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code, is funded and operated separately from OSI. OSPC engages in policy advocacy on U.S. and international issues, including foreign operations, criminal justice reform, human rights, women’s rights, and civil liberties. For more information, please visit OSPC’s website at www.opensocietypolicycenter.org.

CHAIRMAN’S AND PRESIDENTIAL GRANTS

In addition to supporting the network’s foundations and initiatives, OSI makes funds available to a variety of organizations, especially in the fields of human rights and anticorruption. Many of these grantees form close partnerships with OSI and are considered an integral part of the efforts of the OSI and Soros foundations network.

Chairman’s and presidential grants totaled over \$10 million in 2006.

Funding was committed or went to, among others, the following: \$1 million to the Committee to Protect Journalists over five years to support the Michael Massing Emergency Response Fund to respond to press freedom emergencies and to the urgent needs of journalists around the world; 300,000 British pounds over three years (more than \$550,000) to the Civil Liberties Trust to help Liberty, the British counterpart to the ACLU, to expand its recruitment efforts in order to generate more income through membership; and \$250,000 to the International Center for Transitional Justice for their work helping countries deal with war crimes and mass human rights abuses committed during conflict or authoritarian regimes. Large institutional grants were also given to longtime OSI grantees Human Rights Watch (\$1 million), the American Civil Liberties Union Foundation (\$1 million) and the International Crisis Group (\$2.25 million.)

In the field of anticorruption, Global Witness received \$1 million for exposing the link between exploitation of natural resources and human rights abuses, conflict, and corruption, and Tiri received \$500,000 for their work developing curricula in corruption for public administration students and addressing corruption in postconflict situations.

In addition, the Soros Humanitarian Foundation gave the Millennium Promise Alliance \$10 million in 2006 for its Millennium Villages initiative to address the problem of extreme poverty in Africa.

OSI OMBUDSMAN

The OSI ombudsman addresses complaints from within and outside the Soros foundations network about acts or practices that appear to constitute abuses of authority by Soros foundations, by OSI–Budapest, or by those parts of OSI in New York that serve the network. The ombudsman investigates the complaints she receives at her discretion, and reports her findings to the OSI–Budapest board as she considers appropriate. Where necessary, OSI supports the work of the ombudsman by providing her with investigative assistance. Matters that can be dealt

with by other grievance mechanisms within OSI are referred to those mechanisms for resolution.

The ombudsman does not deal with employee grievances or with disagreements about the merits of a grant or programming decision. Rather, the chief concern of the ombudsman position is to investigate accusations of rudeness, negligence, dishonesty, violation of procedures, or other abuses dealing with grant applicants, other parts of the network, partner organizations, or the general public.

The position of OSI ombudsman is held by Irena Veisaite, who, in the past, has served both as the chair of the Open Society Fund–Lithuania board and as a member of the OSI–Budapest board. The ombudsman may be contacted at:

Irena Veisaite
OSI Ombudsman
J. Basanavicius 16/5 - 49, LT-03224
Vilnius, Lithuania
TEL: 370 265 21 29
EMAIL: irena@osf.lt

APPLICATION INFORMATION

OSI programs and initiatives award grants, scholarships, and fellowships on a regular basis throughout the year. The type of funding and eligibility requirements differ for each initiative. Potential applicants should consult the Grants, Scholarships, and Fellowships section of the OSI website, www.soros.org, to determine their eligibility and access appropriate application guidelines.

The Soros foundations award grants principally to local organizations and individuals. Some foundations also award grants to foreign organizations working in partnership with local groups. Potential grant applicants should contact individual foundations about their application procedures. Contact information for the Soros foundations can be found on the OSI website or in the directory at the end of this report.

Partnerships

Donor Partners

Partnerships with other donors contribute significantly to the work of the Open Society Institute and the Soros foundations network. In some instances, these partnerships involve explicit agreements with other donors to share costs. At other times, they take place informally when another donor determines to support a project OSI has initiated or, conversely, when we build upon another donor's initiative. In some cases, other donors contribute directly to one of the Soros foundations in support of a particular project.

Our donor partners include:

International organizations such as the World Bank, the World Health Organization (WHO), UNAIDS, UNICEF, UNESCO/International Institute for Education Planning, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the Council of Europe, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the European Commission, agencies of the European Union, and the Asian Development Bank. OSI's collaboration with UNDP is especially extensive, and includes a formal Memorandum of Understanding between the two institutions and numerous joint funding projects;

National government aid agencies, including the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the United States Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Britain's Department for International Development (DFID) and Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), the French Centre National des Oeuvres Universitaires et Scolaires (CNOUS), the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs MATRA Programme, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs FRESTA Programme, the German Foreign Ministry and Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), and a number of Austrian government agencies, including the ministries of education and foreign affairs, that operate bilaterally;

National governments in several countries that cofund programs sponsored by Soros foundations in those countries, especially in education;

American private foundations such as the United Nations Foundation, the Ford Foundation, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, the American Austrian Foundation, Freedom Forum, the Pew Charitable Trusts, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, the JEHT Foundation, Atlantic Philanthropies, the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, the Irene Diamond Fund, the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the Lilly Endowment, the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, the Nathan Cummings Foundation, the Schumann Center for Media and Democracy, the Rockefeller Foundation, the Surdna Foundation, the Tides Foundation, and the German Marshall Fund;

European private foundations such as AVINA, the Robert Bosch Foundation, the King Baudouin Foundation, the Sigrid Rausing Trust, the Oak Foundation, the European Cultural Foundation, and some of the German political party-affiliated foundations;

European and North American institutions that administer assistance funds obtained from their governments, such as the Swedish Helsinki Committee for Human Rights, Press Now (Netherlands), NOVIB (Netherlands), International Media Support (Denmark), the British Council, Norwegian People's Aid, Medienhilfe (Switzerland), Freedom House (U.S.), IREX (U.S.), the National Endowment for Democracy (U.S.), the Eurasia Foundation (U.S.), the Nazi Persecutee Relief Fund (U.S., France, Britain), Norwegian and Danish Burma Committees, Olof Palme International Center (Sweden), the Remembrance, Responsibility and Future Foundation (Germany), Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Germany), Rights and Democracy (Canada), International Republican Institute (U.S.), and the Asia Foundation (U.S.).

OSI also is a donor and partner of the Baltic-American Partnership Fund and the Trust for Civil Society in Central and Eastern Europe.

OSI collaborates with other organizations in supporting the Roma Decade of Inclusion and, in particular, the Roma Education Fund.

The Open Society Institute and the Soros foundations are deeply grateful to all our funding partners and thank them for their role in building open societies and for the trust in the Soros foundations reflected by their support.

NGO Partners

Another form of partnership is also of enormous importance to the Soros foundations: the relationships with grantees that have developed into alliances in pursuing crucial parts of the open society agenda.

These partners include, but are not limited to:

International Crisis Group for its research and advocacy in addressing armed conflicts and other crises in international relations;

Human Rights Watch for its leadership in protecting civil and political rights worldwide;

American Civil Liberties Union Foundation, Leadership Conference on Civil Rights Education Fund, American Constitution Society for Law and Policy, and People For the American Way Foundation for championing individual rights and civil liberties in the United States;

European Roma Rights Centre for its defense of the rights of a minority that is severely persecuted in many countries;

Media Development Loan Fund and the *Southern Africa Media Development Fund* for their role in assisting independent media to develop as self-sustaining businesses;

Vera Institute of Justice for its innovative efforts to pursue criminal justice reform programs in such countries as Russia, South Africa, and the United States;

Global Witness for its investigations of the connections between resource exploitation, corruption, the arms trade, and severe abuses of human rights;

Democracy Coalition Project for working to strengthen the intergovernmental Community of Democracies process as a mechanism for democratic change;

Center on Budget and Policy Priorities for its expertise on budget and tax policy questions in the United States, and also for its International Budget Project, which promotes budget transparency and accountability in transition countries;

Committee to Protect Journalists and *Article 19* for their work defending and upholding freedom of expression;

Center for Community Change for its efforts to give low-income people a voice in American democracy;

No Peace Without Justice for its efforts to end female genital mutilation;

Global Fund for Women for its advocacy on human rights for women around the world;

International Center for Transitional Justice for its assistance to transition countries wishing to pursue accountability for mass atrocity or human rights abuse under previous regimes;

Justice at Stake Campaign for its efforts to keep the U.S. courts fair and impartial;

Local chapters of *Transparency International* for their work with Soros foundations on anticorruption measures;

Médecins Sans Frontières, *AIDS Foundation East-West*, *Doctors of the World*, and *Partners in Health* for their efforts in addressing crucial public health emergencies that are often connected to abuses of human rights;

Brennan Center for Justice for its intellectual leadership in devising legal approaches to issues of civil liberties and democracy in the United States;

Mental Disability Rights International and the *Mental Disability Advocacy Center* for their protection of the rights of people with mental disabilities;

Penal Reform International for its worldwide efforts to reduce incarceration and protect the rights of prison inmates;

Sentencing Project for leading efforts in the United States to reduce excessive imprisonment;

International Women's Health Coalition, the *Center for Reproductive Rights*, and *Planned Parenthood Federation of America* for their work protecting and expanding reproductive health advocacy and services around the world;

Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights in Poland for its human rights training efforts in Central Asia and Russia, as well as in Poland;

Project Syndicate for providing diverse commentaries to over 240 newspapers worldwide;

Nurcha for helping build hundreds of thousands of low-cost houses in South Africa;

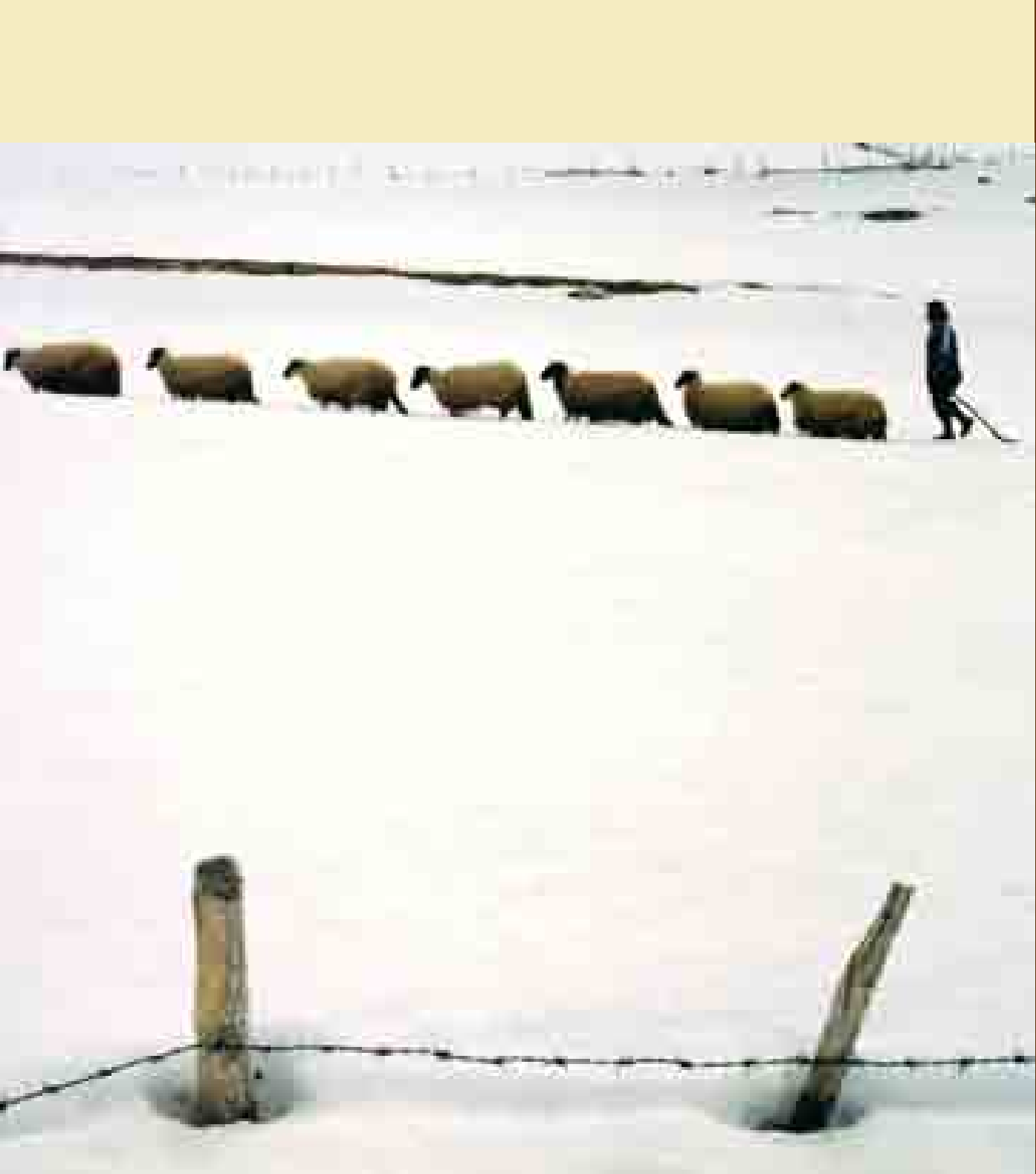
Drug Policy Alliance for its promotion of an alternative drug policy in the United States;

Institute on Medicine as a Profession for promoting professionalism in U.S. medicine;

Millennium Promise Alliance for its efforts to end extreme poverty, hunger, and disease in Africa;

and a great many others.

The pages of this and previous annual reports also mention numerous independent organizations that were created by OSI or that spun off from OSI or Soros foundation programs. All of these institutions obtain support from many donors. In many cases, the funding OSI provides is only a small fraction of their total revenue. The support they obtain from multiple donors enhances their independence and, of course, helps to ensure their long-term survival as institutions that can help to build open societies.



EXPENDITURES

Open Society Foundation for Albania

2006 Expenditures	\$1,718,000
Civil Society	589,000
Culture	(3,000)
East East	120,000
Education	(35,000)
European Union Programs	80,000
Information	(5,000)
Law	34,000
Public Administration	364,000
Public Health	(2,000)
Youth Programs	(6,000)
Other Programs	410,000
Administration	172,000

NOTE: Other Soros-supported organizations made grants in Albania totaling \$989,688, principally in Education and Public Administration; these grants are not included above.

Open Society Institute Assistance Foundation–Armenia

2006 Expenditures	\$2,249,000
Civil Society	462,000
Culture	157,000
East East	160,000
Education	303,000
Human Rights	111,000
Information	113,000
Law	132,000
Media	299,000
Public Health	144,000
Women's Programs	104,000
Administration	264,000

NOTE: The financial information presented above includes \$227,531, funded by non-Soros entities, principally in Civil Society and Human Rights. Other Soros-supported organizations made grants in Armenia totaling \$1,704,045, principally in Education, Human Rights and Public Administration; these grants are not included above.

Open Society Institute Assistance Foundation–Azerbaijan

2006 Expenditures	\$4,049,000
Civil Society	775,000
Culture	198,000
East East	109,000
Economic Reform	2,000
Education	222,000
European Union Programs	47,000
Information	259,000
Law	151,000
Media	206,000
Public Administration	270,000
Public Health	1,043,000
Transparency & Accountability	122,000
Women's Programs	144,000
Youth Programs	144,000
Administration	357,000

NOTE: The financial information presented above includes \$949,679 funded by non-Soros entities, principally in Civil Society and Public Health. Other Soros-supported organizations made grants in Azerbaijan totaling \$1,793,437, principally in Education, Public Administration and Human Rights; these grants are not included above.

Open Society Fund–Bosnia and Herzegovina

2006 Expenditures	\$2,686,000
Civil Society	363,000
East East	98,000
Education	389,000
Human Rights	153,000
Law	332,000
Public Administration	274,000
Public Health	5,000
Roma	286,000
Women's Programs	79,000
Youth Programs	76,000
Other Programs	339,000
Administration	292,000

NOTE: The financial information presented above includes \$31,696, funded by non-Soros entities, principally in Public Administration and Other Programs. Other Soros-supported organizations made grants in Bosnia totaling \$637,943, principally in Education; these grants are not included above.

Open Society Institute–Sofia (Bulgaria)

2006 Expenditures	\$3,499,000
Civil Society	739,000
East East	119,000
Education	125,000
European Union Programs	177,000
Law	514,000
Public Administration	518,000
Public Health	88,000
Roma	144,000
Youth Programs	10,000
Other Programs	4,000
Administration	1,061,000

NOTE: The financial information presented above includes \$1,109,957, funded by non-Soros entities, principally in Civil Society and Administration. Other Soros-supported organizations made grants in Bulgaria totaling \$2,667,446, principally in Education, Roma, and Public Administration; these grants are not included above.

Open Society Institute–Croatia

2006 Expenditures	\$395,000
Civil Society	89,000
East East	19,000
Roma	16,000
Other Programs	50,000
Administration	221,000

NOTE: The financial information presented above includes \$60,071, funded by non-Soros entities, principally in Roma and Administration. Other Soros-supported organizations made grants in Croatia totaling \$1,816,569, principally in Education, Public Health and Human Rights; these grants are not included above.

Open Society Fund–Prague (Czech Republic)

2006 Expenditures	\$1,632,000
Civil Society	40,000
East East	206,000
Education	71,000
Ethnic Minorities	63,000
European Union Programs	138,000
Human Rights	54,000
Law	387,000
Public Health	96,000
Roma	70,000
Women's Programs	280,000
Youth Programs	77,000
Administration	150,000

NOTE: The financial information presented above includes \$447,669, funded by non-Soros entities, principally in European Union Programs, Public Health and Women's Programs. Other Soros-supported organizations made grants in Czech Republic totaling \$537,271 principally in Roma and Human Rights; these grants are not included above.

Open Society Initiative for East Africa

2006 Expenditures	\$1,765,000
Information and Media	400,000
Transparency and Accountability	575,000
Human Rights and Law	375,000
Administration	415,000

Open Estonia Foundation

2006 Expenditures	\$1,481,000
Civil Society	851,000
East East	120,000
European Union Programs	231,000
Public Health	56,000
Women's Programs	145,000
Youth Programs	4,000
Administration	74,000

NOTE: The financial information presented above includes \$747,292, funded by non-Soros entities, principally in Civil Society. Other Soros-supported organizations made grants in Estonia totaling \$452,025, principally in Public Administration and Human Rights; these grants are not included above.

Open Society Georgia Foundation

2006 Expenditures	\$3,795,000
Civil Society	323,000
Culture	19,000
East East	238,000
Economic Reform	202,000
Education	356,000
European Union Programs	118,000
Information	85,000
Law	424,000
Media	214,000
Public Administration	318,000
Public Health	697,000
Transparency & Accountability	9,000
Women's Programs	190,000
Youth Programs	63,000
Other Programs	208,000
Administration	331,000

NOTE: The financial information presented above includes \$355,833, funded by non-Soros entities, principally in Public Health. Other Soros-supported organizations made grants in Georgia totaling \$3,124,609, principally in Education, Public Administration and Human Rights; these grants are not included above.

Fundación Soros–Guatemala

2006 Expenditures	\$2,347,000
Civil Society	477,000
Economic Reform	90,000
Law	1,055,000
Media	76,000
Public Administration	57,000
Other Programs	83,000
Administration	509,000

NOTE: The financial information presented above includes \$785,921, funded by non-Soros entities, principally in Law. Other Soros-supported organizations made grants in Guatemala totaling \$41,132, principally in Human Rights; these grants are not included above.

Fondation Connaissance et Liberté (Haiti)

2006 Expenditures	\$2,361,000
Civil Society	197,000
Culture	282,000
Economic Reform	253,000
Education	573,000
Information	554,000
Women's Programs	91,000
Youth Programs	88,000
Other Programs	35,000
Administration	288,000

NOTE: The financial information presented above includes \$528,095, funded by non-Soros entities, principally in Education, Culture and Youth Programs. Other Soros-supported organizations made grants in Haiti totaling \$178,731, principally in Economic Reform; these grants are not included above. The above also does not include \$50,000 of in-kind activity by non-Soros entities.

Soros Foundation–Hungary

2006 Expenditures	\$609,000
Civil Society	210,000
East East	165,000
Human Rights	52,000
Administration	182,000

NOTE: The financial information presented above includes \$89,036, funded by non-Soros entities, principally in Civil Society. Other Soros-supported organizations made grants in Hungary totaling \$2,701,339, principally in Public Health, Human Rights and Roma; these grants are not included above.

Soros Foundation–Kazakhstan

2006 Expenditures	\$3,119,000
Civil Society	254,000
Conference & Travel	104,000
Culture	16,000
East East	193,000
Economic Reform	420,000
Education	61,000
Information	170,000
Law	325,000
Media	482,000
Public Administration	(11,000)
Public Health	336,000
Transparency & Accountability	75,000
Women's Programs	45,000
Youth Programs	121,000
Administration	528,000

NOTE: The financial information presented above includes \$42,650, funded by non-Soros entities, principally in Economic Reform and Administration. Other Soros-supported organizations made grants in Kazakhstan, totaling \$2,932,955, principally in Education, Civil Society and Human Rights; these grants are not included above.

Kosovo Foundation for Open Society

2006 Expenditures	\$2,098,000
Civil Society	211,000
East East	91,000
Education	131,000
Ethnic Minorities	353,000
European Union Programs	626,000
Human Rights	44,000
Information	2,000
Public Administration	262,000
Public Health	65,000
Women's Programs	100,000
Youth Programs	17,000
Other Programs	12,000
Administration	184,000

NOTE: The financial information presented above includes \$17,550, funded by non-Soros entities, principally in Youth Programs. Other Soros-supported organizations made grants in Kosovo, totaling \$661,132, principally in Education, Media and Public Administration; these grants are not included above.

Soros Foundation–Kyrgyzstan

2006 Expenditures	\$4,453,000
Civil Society	255,000
Conference & Travel	68,000
Culture	135,000
East East	74,000
Economic Reform	186,000
Education	398,000
Ethnic Minorities	130,000
Information	153,000
International Programs	3,000
Law	373,000
Media	231,000
Public Administration	507,000
Public Health	973,000
Washington Programs	1,000
Women's Programs	158,000
Youth Programs	432,000
Administration	376,000

NOTE: The financial information presented above includes \$1,022,760, funded by non-Soros entities, principally in Public Health and Youth Programs. Other Soros-supported organizations made grants in Kyrgyzstan, totaling \$3,073,424, principally in Education, Human Rights and Public Administration; these grants are not included above.

Soros Foundation–Latvia

2006 Expenditures	\$2,192,000
Civil Society	540,000
Culture	1,000
East East	166,000
Education	5,000
Ethnic Minorities	107,000
European Union Programs	556,000
Information	2,000
Law	149,000
Public Administration	301,000
Public Health	87,000
Administration	278,000

NOTE: The financial information presented above includes \$478,994, funded by non-Soros entities, principally in Civil Society. Other Soros-supported organizations made grants in Latvia, totaling \$302,948, principally in Education and Public Administration; these grants are not included above.

Open Society Fund–Lithuania

2006 Expenditures	\$1,463,000
Civil Society	477,000
East East	141,000
Education	21,000
International Programs	2,000
Law	19,000
Public Health	262,000
Administration	541,000

NOTE: The financial information presented above includes \$539,675, funded by non-Soros entities, principally in Civil Society and Administration. Other Soros-supported organizations made grants in Lithuania, totaling \$230,288, principally in Education, Public Health and Women's Programs; these grants are not included above.

Foundation Open Society Institute–Macedonia

2006 Expenditures	\$6,958,000
Civil Society	1,105,000
Culture	54,000
East East	94,000
Economic Reform	372,000
Education	3,022,000
European Union Programs	232,000
Human Rights	83,000
Information	313,000
International Programs	10,000
Law	212,000
Media	360,000
Public Administration	228,000
Public Health	240,000
Women's Programs	60,000
Youth Programs	19,000
Other Programs	1,000
Administration	553,000

NOTE: The financial information presented above includes \$3,853,768, funded by non-Soros entities, principally in Education, Civil Society, and Economic Reform. Other Soros-supported organizations made grants in Macedonia, totaling \$1,471,940, principally in Education, Roma and Media; these grants are not included above.

Soros Foundation–Moldova

2006 Expenditures	\$4,637,000
Civil Society	362,000
Culture	11,000
East East	211,000
Economic Reform	104,000
Education	274,000
European Union Programs	299,000
Information	402,000
Law	660,000
Media	500,000
Public Administration	267,000
Public Health	1,122,000
Roma	1,000
Women's Programs	22,000
Youth Programs	47,000
Other Programs	35,000
Administration	320,000

NOTE: The financial information presented above includes \$1,266,224, funded by non-Soros entities, principally in Public Health, Law and Civil Society. Other Soros-supported organizations made grants in Moldova, totaling \$1,712,055, principally in Education, Public Administration and Human Rights; these grants are not included above.

Open Society Forum (Mongolia)

2006 Expenditures	\$1,785,000
East East	9,000
Education	83,000
Law	7,000
Media	64,000
Public Administration	1,588,000
Transparency & Accountability	29,000
Youth Programs	5,000

NOTE: The financial information presented above includes \$231,739, funded by non-Soros entities, principally in Public Administration. Other Soros-supported organizations made grants in Mongolia, totaling \$1,087,849, principally in Education, Public Health and Culture; these grants are not included above.

Foundation Open Society Institute–Representative Office Montenegro

2006 Expenditures	\$1,285,000
Civil Society	39,000
East East	40,000
Economic Reform	1,000
Education	270,000
European Union Programs	239,000
Law	169,000
Media	10,000
Other OSI Programs	6,000
Public Administration	181,000
Roma	16,000
Women's Programs	61,000
Youth Programs	1,000
Administration	252,000

NOTE: The financial information presented above includes \$22,955, funded by non-Soros entities, principally in European Union Programs and Education. Other Soros-supported organizations made grants in Montenegro, totaling \$272,491, Education, Public Administration and Media; these grants are not included above.

Stefan Batory Foundation (Poland)

2006 Expenditures	\$6,325,000
Civil Society	2,676,000
East East	2,102,000
Law	535,000
Public Health	184,000
Other Programs	4,000
Administration	824,000

NOTE: The financial information presented above includes \$3,268,819, funded by non-Soros entities, principally in East East: Partnership Beyond Borders and Civil Society. Other Soros-supported organizations made grants in Poland, totaling \$1,726,326, principally in Education, Human Rights and Public Administration; these grants are not included above.

Soros Foundation Romania

2006 Expenditures	\$3,455,000
Civil Society	515,000
East East	297,000
Education	102,000
European Union Programs	85,000
Human Rights	70,000
Media	68,000
Public Administration	475,000
Public Health	23,000
Roma	329,000
Women's Programs	83,000
Youth Programs	63,000
Other Programs	855,000
Administration	490,000

NOTE: The financial information presented above includes \$396,656, funded by non-Soros entities, principally in Other Programs. Other Soros-supported organizations made grants in Romania, totaling \$3,765,297, principally in Education, Roma and Human Rights; these grants are not included above.

Russia Project

2006 Expenditures	\$6,499,000
Civil Society	5,662,000
Education	82,000
Information	1,000
Law	1,000
Administration	753,000

NOTE: The financial information presented above includes \$11,237, funded by non-Soros entities, principally in Education. Other Soros-supported organizations made grants in Russia, totaling \$9,502,779, principally in Education, Human Rights and Media; these grants are not included above.

Fund for an Open Society–Serbia

2006 Expenditures	\$3,873,000
Civil Society	192,000
East East	157,000
Education	635,000
European Union Programs	194,000
Information	148,000
Law	416,000
Media	603,000
Public Administration	443,000
Public Health	221,000
Roma	239,000
Women's Programs	123,000
Youth Programs	79,000
Other Programs	12,000
Administration	411,000

NOTE: The financial information presented above includes \$103,889, funded by non-Soros entities, principally in Roma. Other Soros-supported organizations made grants in Serbia, totaling \$1,958,762, principally in Education, Human Rights and Public Administration; these grants are not included above.

Open Society Foundation–Bratislava (Slovak Republic)

2006 Expenditures	\$1,808,000
Civil Society	334,000
East East	74,000
Education	66,000
Law	58,000
Media	32,000
Public Administration	58,000
Public Health	128,000
Roma	430,000
Women's Programs	105,000
Youth Programs	53,000
Other Programs	58,000
Administration	412,000

NOTE: The financial information presented above includes \$379,993, funded by non-Soros entities, principally in Civil Society and Roma. Other Soros-supported organizations made grants in Slovakia, totaling \$1,185,577, principally in Public Administration, Human Rights and Economic Reform; these grants are not included above.

Open Society Foundation for South Africa

2006 Expenditures	\$7,201,000
African Initiatives	5,000
Civil Society	1,157,000
Economic Reform	638,000
Human Rights	168,000
Information	259,000
International Programs	10,000
Law	3,417,000
Media	1,023,000
Public Health	118,000
Other Programs	141,000
Administration	265,000

NOTE: Other Soros-supported organizations made grants in South Africa, totaling \$1,177,643 principally in Economic Reform, Information and Public Health; these grants are not included above.

Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa

2006 Expenditures	\$17,003,000
African Initiatives	164,000
Civil Society	1,638,000
Economic Reform	1,813,000
Education	2,136,000
Human Rights	2,593,000
Information	1,115,000
Law	33,000
Media	1,899,000
Public Administration	385,000
Public Health	2,976,000
Transparency and Accountability	35,000
Women's Programs	589,000
Administration	1,627,000

NOTE: The financial information presented above includes \$40,694, funded by non-Soros entities, principally in Women's Programs.

Open Society Institute Assistance Foundation–Tajikistan

2006 Expenditures	\$4,112,000
Civil Society	138,000
Conference & Travel	61,000
Culture	135,000
East East	28,000
Economic Reform	155,000
Education	551,000
Information	395,000
International Programs	1,000
Law	239,000
Media	181,000
Public Administration	248,000
Public Health	1,179,000
Women's Programs	162,000
Youth Programs	270,000
Administration	369,000

NOTE: The financial information presented above includes \$1,162,627, funded by non-Soros entities, principally in Public Health, Youth Programs and Information. Other Soros-supported organizations made grants in Tajikistan, totaling \$843,948, principally in Education, Civil Society and Public Health; these grants are not included above.

Open Society Institute Assistance Foundation–Turkey

2006 Expenditures \$1,935,000

NOTE: Other Soros-supported organizations made grants in Turkey, totaling \$298,954, principally in Education, Human Rights and Economic Reform; these grants are not included above.

International Renaissance Foundation (Ukraine)

2006 Expenditures \$7,397,000
Civil Society 730,000
East East 475,000
Education 381,000
European Union Programs 693,000
Information 300,000
Law 1,105,000
Media 668,000
Public Administration 417,000
Public Health 757,000
Roma 100,000
Youth Programs 13,000
Other Programs 1,081,000
NF Administration 677,000

NOTE: The financial information presented above includes \$608,055 funded by non-Soros entities, principally in European Union Program, Information and Media. Other Soros-supported organizations made grants in Ukraine, totaling \$3,625,304, principally in Education, Public Health and Public Administration; these grants are not included above.

Open Society Initiative for West Africa

2006 Expenditures \$8,457,000
Civil Society 536,000
Economic Reform 232,000
Human Rights 1,534,000
Information 1,049,000
Law 705,000
Media 913,000
Public Administration 925,000
Public Health 1,014,000
Women's Programs 80,000
Administration 1,469,000

This report describes charitable activities undertaken by OSI and other U.S.-based organizations in accordance with regulations applicable to 501(c)(3) organizations. It also describes activities carried out and funded by the Open Society Policy Center (a 501(c)(4) organization) or foreign entities financed by non-U.S.-sourced funding.

International Initiatives

OSI Paris Belarus Support 1,406,000
Balkan Policy Group 36,000
Burma Project/Indonesia/Southeast Asia Initiative 8,125,000
Central Eurasia/Middle East Projects 11,986,000
China Grants 3,628,000
Latin America Regional Initiatives 9,266,000
Project Syndicate 1,649,000
Other African Initiatives 7,079,000
International Crisis Group 2,250,000

Total International Initiatives

\$45,426,000

Network Programs

Arts and Culture Network Program 1,289,000
Children and Youth Programs 7,645,000
East East: Partnership Beyond Borders 4,376,000
Economic and Business Development Program 1,311,000
EU Monitoring and Advocacy Program 1,262,000
Information Program 5,661,000
Education Support Program 2,904,000
International Policy Fellowships 1,506,000
International Higher Education Support Program 17,075,000
Local Government Initiative 8,279,000
Media Program 10,979,000
Open Society Justice Initiative 11,347,000
Public Health Program 23,231,000
Roma Participation Program 5,568,000
Scholarship Programs 18,454,000
Women's Program 4,640,000

Total Network Programs

\$125,527,000

U.S. Programs

U.S. Justice Fund 17,029,000
Strategic Opportunities Fund 12,824,000
Special Chairman's Fund 29,646,000
OSI-Washington, D.C. 2,492,000
OSI-Baltimore 4,479,000
Other U.S. Initiatives 7,622,000

Total U.S. Programs

\$74,092,000

NOTE: The Strategic Opportunities Fund includes grants related to Hurricane Katrina (\$1,652,841); media policy (\$1,060,000); and politicization of science (\$720,000).

The Special Chairman's Fund includes grants related to progressive legal infrastructure (\$7,305,000); multi-issue policy infrastructure (\$6,685,000); youth activism and leadership development (\$3,561,000); civic engagement (\$2,750,000); judicial nominations (\$2,458,000); political reform (\$500,000); and global warming (\$455,000).

Other U.S. Initiatives include: drug policy reform (\$4,000,000); Youth Initiatives (\$940,000); Medicine as a Profession (\$500,000); After-School Program (\$376,870); and other U.S. Programs.

OSI-Baltimore expenditures include \$1,127,330 in third party funds raised from outside donors.

Soros Foundations Network

Soros Foundations 124,643,000
Network Programs 125,527,000
International Initiatives 45,426,000
US Programs 74,092,000
All Other Organizations, Programs and Costs 78,233,000
Interorganization Elimination (30,336,000)

Total Expenditures

\$417,585,000



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