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WAR CRIMES DOCUMENTATION PROJECT

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Project One: Development of Computer Database Technology for Witness Testimony

Targets:

1. By the end of the workplan period, CEELI will have developed a database in an Oracle-based platform, which allows for statistical analysis and reporting on collected data. (Base of activity: DC)
2. By the end of the workplan period, CEELI will have field-tested the new database. (Kosovo)
3. By the end of the workplan period, the new database software will be available free of charge to human rights and other nongovernmental organizations (NGOs). (DC)

Progress Achieved:

As previously reported, the first two targets of this project have been met. Chicago-Kent College of Law has delivered a revised, functioning prototype of the new human rights violations documentation database, which was successfully field tested during the minority interviewing project in Summer 2001. CEELI's subcontractor, AAAS, has built upon the work done by Chicago-Kent to create a substantially improved prototype. This structure of the new prototype incorporates the data capture innovations developed by Chicago-Kent and includes the architecture for the database's analytical capacity.

During this reporting period, AAAS continued to develop the actual software based on the prototype. As of the end of June, the data input component of the software was completed.

The remainder of the software package is scheduled for completion in July. At that time, the database program is scheduled for release as "open source" software. As previously reported, releasing the database as an open source product will allow NGOs to access the program free of charge. In addition, open source software allows independent software developers to have access to the underlying code and create additional tools that enhance the functionality of the program.

Project Two: Institutional Development of NGO Partners

Targets:

1. By the end of the workplan period, Center staff will have received training in interviewing and human rights documentation techniques. (Albania)
2. By the end of the workplan period, the Center will have developed strategic and financial plans. (Albania)
3. By the end of the workplan period, the Center will have begun undertaking new projects in accordance with its strategic plan. (Albania)
4. By the end of the workplan period, the Center will have identified and received funding from outside sources. (Albania)
5. By the end of the workplan period, the Center will have developed and distributed public education materials, including a website and publications. (Albania)

Progress Achieved:

As previously reported, these targets have been met. CEELI has expended all advocacy grant funds budgeted for the Center and is therefore no longer providing direct financial support.

Project Three: Ongoing Witness Interviews and Data Entry

Targets:

1. By the end of the workplan period, interview teams will have conducted interviews of ethnic Albanians throughout Kosovo. (Kosovo)
2. By the end of the workplan period, interview teams will have collected ante mortem information from ethnic Albanians, and submitted it to the OSCE for processing. (Kosovo)
3. By the end of the workplan period, all data on human rights violations will be entered into the war crimes database. (DC and/or Kosovo)
4. By the end of the workplan period, data on human rights violations and ante mortem information will be collected from minority populations within Kosovo. (Kosovo)

Progress Achieved:

As previously reported, CEELI has achieved all targets listed above and currently has no plans for further interviewing activity.

Project Four: Development of Local Capacity for War Crimes Trials

Targets:

1. By the end of the workplan period, judges, prosecutors, defense counsel, and/or police will have received training in human rights, criminal procedure, and war crimes investigation. (Kosovo)
2. By the end of the workplan period, an independent Office of the Defense will be established. (Kosovo)

Progress Achieved:

As previously reported, the Criminal Defense Resource Center has been established. CEELI continues to promote local defense capacity development through our Rule of Law program, which has been requested to focus on local training, especially in the coming year.

Project Five: Public Awareness Campaign

Targets:

1. By the end of the workplan period, educational brochures on international humanitarian law will be available to the public. (Kosovo and Albania)
2. By the end of the workplan period, statistical analyses of the information collected during the interviewing process will be conducted and published. (DC)
3. By the end of the workplan period, descriptive reports on events in Kosovo will be published. (DC)

Progress Achieved:

As previously reported, CEELI has met these targets. The report submitted to the ICTY as evidence in the Milosevic case, as well as the transcripts of the expert testimony, are publicly available. By the end of 2002, CEELI plans to formally publish this material and other information learned during this project.

Project Six: Coordinating Framework

Targets:

1. By the end of the workplan period, a standard interview form and database format will have been introduced to and accepted by the international community. (DC, Kosovo, and The Hague)

Progress Achieved:

As previously reported, CEELI plans to introduce publicly the lessons learned from its experience and the new database technology under development as part of an international conference in Washington, DC. This conference is scheduled for July 30, 2002. During the workplan period, CEELI developed the agenda, contacted speakers, finalized logistical arrangements, and sent invitations. The goal of the conference is to bring together funding organizations, western human rights groups, and other nongovernmental organizations to discuss how they can best support each other and human rights violations documentation and accountability processes around the world. The official conference announcement is attached.

Project Seven: Adoption and Use of a Security Protocol

Targets:

1. By the end of the workplan period, an electronic security system, which ensures encrypted storage and transfer of information, will be implemented. (DC, Kosovo, and Albania)

Progress Achieved:

CEELI has achieved this target with the inclusion of such security features in the new database prototype.

