

Rule of Law Initiative / Global Human Rights Training and Support

The RIGHTS Consortium

Grant No. AEP-A-00-99-00016-00

Funded by the United States Agency for International Development

Consortium Members: Freedom House (prime partner), the American Bar Association's Central and East European Law Initiative (ABA/CEELI), and the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI).

Sixth Interim Narrative Report

Reporting Period: July 1 – September 30, 2000

I. Executive Summary

On March 9, 1999, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) awarded a grant in the amount of \$4,000,000 to Freedom House to provide support for a global program in rule of law. On September 27, 2000, USAID raised the funding ceiling to \$12,000,000. Freedom House acts as the prime recipient for the RIGHTS Consortium, which includes Freedom House, the American Bar Association's Central and East European Law Initiative (ABA/CEELI) and the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI).

The RIGHTS Consortium supports the transition to and consolidation of democratic regimes throughout the world by supporting and strengthening the rule of law and human rights. Specifically, RIGHTS Consortium activities help USAID achieve the following objectives:

1. Legal protections for human rights and gender equity that conform to international standards;
2. Judicial, legal, and regulatory frameworks that support democratic institutions as well as market-based economies;
3. Effective and fair justice sector institutions, including the judiciary, prosecution, legal defenders, and civilian police;
4. Equitable access to justice and the skills and knowledge necessary to use the justice system effectively;
5. Technical excellence and "state of the art" sustainable activities in the field of rule of law and human rights.

During the five-year grant period, USAID supports the RIGHTS Consortium in two types of programming: (1) core activities which improve technical aspects and the sustainability of rule of law and human rights programs (through the Leader Cooperative Agreement), and (2) longer-term, more comprehensive rule of law and human rights development activities that provide

technical assistance and training (through Associate Awards). Initial core funding for the first year provides \$500,000 for rapid response initiatives and \$500,000 for technical excellence and "state of the art" sustainable activities. Under the Leader agreement, one rapid response activity, "War Crimes Documentation: the Fort Dix Refugee Interview Project," has been initiated; and the USAID Latin American Bureau agreed to provide "buy-in" support of \$30,000 for a core activity, the Anti-Corruption Educational Campaign in the Americas. Associate Awards in year one include a grant and supplement in the amount of \$595,195 from USAID-Latvia to support the Latvian Naturalization Project; and continued support for the Continuation of the War Crimes Documentation.

This narrative report reviews the activity carried out during the sixth interim reporting period of July 1 – September 30, 2000.

II. Program Activities

During the sixth quarter, the largest share of the RIGHTS Consortium's work was to begin implementation of the Algeria, East Timor, and Uzbekistan projects that had been approved by USAID during the previous quarter as well as ongoing work on the Kosovo War Crimes Documentation project. For Algeria, Freedom House, in collaboration with the International Center for Journalists (a RIGHTS Consortium Associate Partner) designed its workplan, developed program materials in French and Arabic to announce a Visiting Fellows Program for journalists and representatives of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and prepared for in-country training for journalists. Project start-up was also underway in the East Timor Human Rights Support Program, as Freedom House and its partner, the Coalition for International Justice, made an assessment trip to Dili. During this quarter, Freedom House established an office in Dili, defined an implementation strategy to support the capacity building of human rights NGOs, and selected criminal investigative candidates for deployment to East Timor. For Uzbekistan, Freedom House engaged its Central Asian specialist, who has extensive NGO and human rights training and technical assistance experience, to make an initial trip to meet with indigenous defenders to discuss training needs and implementation plans.

In addition to undertaking new activities, USAID also approved additional funding for on-going RIGHTS Consortium projects. Consortium partner ABA/CEELI received two tranches of supplemental funding for its Kosovo Rule of Law project (via an associate award) as well as continued funding for its War Crimes Documentation project.

In addition to its growing programmatic work, the RIGHTS Consortium continued its technical leadership activity under the Leader Cooperative Agreement. The Consortium finalized the development of its website, including design of a "cold fusion" site with interactive components. Consortium partner ABA/CEELI developed assessment tool formats for its Gender Index and ICCPR index. CEELI's working groups assembled to design each tool continued to analyze the structure and content of the articles of CEDAW and the ICCPR in order to apply them most appropriately to the indices. Consortium partner NDI completed a number of activities in its anti-corruption educational campaign in the Americas, which have resulted in the broadcast of a series of anti-corruption Public Service Announcements on Radio Trinidad. NDI also continued

work this quarter on the report on the November 1999 African Constitutional Renaissance Conference held in Johannesburg.

A. RIGHTS Program Development/Outreach

During this quarter, the RIGHTS Consortium responded to a request from USAID-Rabat to address rule of law reform in Morocco. In response, the Consortium crafted a concept paper to address the human rights/rule of law needs of civil society advocacy groups in Morocco. The RIGHTS concept paper offered integrated assistance in the following areas: targeted technical assistance and training to local human rights groups to assist in their strategic design of a network of human rights monitors; a program for human rights monitoring, reporting and advocacy (including standardized methodologies in monitoring and documentation); and, through subgrants to local CSOs, training representatives to instruct 150 rights activists on the fundamentals of monitoring and reporting.

In an effort to strengthen its technical assistance capacity, the ABA created regional councils covering major areas of the world. Incorporating two pre-existing programs, the four councils are the Central and East European Law Initiative (CEELI), the Asia Law Initiative Council (ALIC), the Africa Law Initiative Council (AFLIC), and the Latin American Legal Initiative Council (LALIC). The councils serve as clearinghouses for projects initiated and run by various entities in the ABA. Additionally, each council has the authority to initiate its own programs in its region. The RIGHTS Director met with the Director of ALIC and AFLIC to share information and discuss possible areas of cooperation with the Consortium.

B. Technical Leadership and Sustainable Activities in Rule of Law and Human Rights

Technical Leadership under the RIGHTS Consortium is designed to improve long-term strategic planning of rule of law and human rights assistance with the aim of creating more effective and sustainable programming. During the sixth quarter, the RIGHTS Consortium continued to develop several technical leadership activities.

1. Diagnostic Tools Development Work

a) Gender Index

ABA/CEELI has developed a format for the index and researched six of the sixteen substantive articles of CEDAW. CEELI convened three working group meetings with representatives of local NGOs with expertise in this area to discuss the structure and content of these articles. The first meeting introduced the project to the NGOs and sought their participation in working groups on the several topics addressed by CEDAW. The second and third meetings brought together the relevant working groups in order to review and critique the questions asked under each article of CEDAW in order to determine each country's degree of compliance with that article. Ivanka Corti, a member of the United Nations CEDAW Committee (and former Chairperson of the Committee) attended the third working group meeting and gave her recommendations on the format of the index and how the project could be improved. Additional working group meetings are planned for the upcoming quarter.

b) ICCPR Index

CEELI has completed a template form for the ICCPR index, which includes a commentary, implementation assessment, matters pending, and questions for each article or group of articles. CEELI also continues to research legal issues relating to each of the articles in order to determine groupings of articles and what questions should be asked. This research will improve the quality of the index by taking much of the guess work out of what data should be collected, what questions should be asked, and who should be asked. CEELI has also begun to put together a working group that will advise on the structure and content of the index.

2. RIGHTS Consortium Website Development

The Consortium worked with Belmont Design to design and create the RIGHTS Consortium website. The Consortium decided on the design and layout of the page itself along with the necessary programming to create a “cold fusion” site. This type of site uses an accessible, in-house database, allowing the Consortium to update and alter the content of the site on a continual basis. Belmont Design also provided the Consortium with a draft site map, which was being reviewed by all Consortium partners at the end of the reporting period. The draft site map features the site components requested by the Consortium. These include: a section on current RIGHTS projects (divided by country and by activity); training materials for specific project activities and a bulletin board for interactive responses; human rights documents and technical assistance tools; participant profiles and interviews with experts; press clippings; applications for RIGHTS programs; and links to partner organizations and other relevant sites.

3. African Constitutional Renaissance Conference (Southern Africa)

This quarter, NDI completed a draft of the conference report on the November 1999 African Constitutional Renaissance Conference held in Johannesburg. The Conference, “On the Road to Democracy and Constitutionalism: Constitutionalism in Africa over the past 40 Years,” brought together constitutional experts, ministerial and other key political and civil society leaders in the development of constitutionalism in the region from 10 Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries. This regional forum was hosted by the South African Department of Constitutional Development and was sponsored and co-organized by NDI. Participating countries included: Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe.

The overarching goal of the conference was to foster the concept of constitutionalism on the African continent. In addition to reviewing the constitutional framework in each of the countries in the post-colonial period, conference participants examined recent mandates for human rights standards that may have application across the region.

This quarter, NDI continued to review conference tapes, edit the document, and compile other conference information, including the convention written and passed at the conference. The report and its accompanying materials will be sent to USAID under separate cover.

4. Anti-Corruption Educational Campaign in the Americas

With funding provided through a subagreement with NDI, Radio Trinidad, based in Asuncion, Paraguay, completed a number of activities during the quarter. After conducting a series of workshops designed to assess and increase the public's understanding of corruption and the legal issues surrounding it, Radio Trinidad wrote, produced, and is now beginning to air a series of anti-corruption Public Service Announcements (PSAs). Community interest in combating corruption generated by the PSAs and workshops has motivated Radio Trinidad to produce a twice-weekly radio show in which governmental officials are interviewed about efforts to prevent corruption. They have also produced an on-location, call-in radio show transmitted from a local neighborhood to document specific cases of corruption identified by the residents. The show generated a great deal of public interest and the radio station plans to repeat the format in several other neighborhoods.

To maximize the impact of the PSAs, Radio Trinidad conducted several assessment and educational workshops in the community to gauge the public's understanding of corruption-related issues and to identify key misconceptions. In Zeballos Cue neighborhood, Radio Trinidad organized three twice-weekly workshops over two months to assess the public's understanding of corruption issues and train 15 residents as local correspondents to work with the radio to report cases of corruption. In the San Antonio neighborhood, Radio Trinidad conducted meetings and workshops with the neighborhood commission to assess local leaders' understanding of corruption at the community and city level and train them in the procedures necessary to report such cases.

Addressing the issues raised in the assessment workshops, Radio Trinidad recorded four sets of PSAs entitled, "Corruption Prevention" ranging in time from 50 to 90 seconds. The PSAs are currently being aired on Radio Trinidad and will continue to run for the next three months. Radio Trinidad is also in the process of reproducing and distributing the PSAs at the national and international levels.

Radio Trinidad also produced and aired a two-hour, live, call-in radio show with the Mayor of Asuncion, Martin Burt, every Thursday for two months. Burt answered questions posed by callers regarding alleged cases of corruption and official actions that resulted from formal complaints.

Finally, Radio Trinidad set up the first in a series of live, on-location radio programs from the San Miguel neighborhood to address citizen concerns regarding excessive charges by CORPOSANA, the state potable water supplier. The program was organized with the support of the Association of Paraguayan Consumers, the San Miguel neighborhood committee and representatives of CORPOSANA.

In the next quarter, Radio Trinidad will continue to air and reproduce the PSAs and begin distributing them to more than 90 local radio stations in the region through the Latin American Association of Radio-Based Education. NDI plans to send Gustavo Coronel, a Venezuelan consultant specializing in anti-corruption campaigns, to work with Radio Trinidad as a technical advisor in the final production of the PSAs in early November. In addition, NDI plans to

distribute the tapes to nongovernmental organizations through its Latin America and Caribbean Civic Network, a clearinghouse linking more than 60 leading democratic development NGOs in the region.

Results and Accomplishments:

- Radio Trinidad recorded and is broadcasting four sets of anti-corruption PSAs.
- Radio Trinidad raised public awareness of corruption through multiple community workshops and the creation of a variety of anti-corruption radio programs.
- Radio Trinidad offered avenues for public participation in its anti-corruption work by developing live call-in shows in which community members are able to voice concerns and receive advice in dealing with specific cases of corruption.

C. Rapid Response and Development Assistance under the Leader Cooperative Agreement

1. Algeria Rule of Law Project

Over the course of the quarter, the Consortium began work on its Algeria Rule of Law Project. The 15-month project, carried out with the International Center for Journalists (ICFJ), a RIGHTS Consortium Associate Partner, aims to strengthen rule of law and human rights protections in Algeria. The project features three central activities. It will:

- increase the capacity of civil society organizations to monitor, report on, and advocate for rule of law reform and improved human rights protections;
- strengthen investigative reporting skills of journalists and knowledge of media managers to report on rule of law reform and human rights; and
- promote and strengthen human rights protections and practices that conform to international standards on specific human rights issues, such as freedom to associate, press freedoms, women's rights, access to justice, and procedural due process.

In the first week of July, Freedom House (FH) and ICFJ conducted a week-long assessment trip to Algiers to evaluate the institutional capacity of local human rights organizations and the media, identify possible participants for training and technical assistance, explore possible assistance to government actors in their reform initiatives, and investigate security conditions to determine opportunities for in-country work.

As detailed in the Consortium Assessment Report, the assessment team met with a number of organizations, institutions, and individuals that address human rights and justice issues. They included the National Observatory for Human Rights (a government organization), human rights NGOs (including women's, student, and victims rights NGOs), representatives of the Algerian bar association and the judges syndicate, private defense attorneys, officials from the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Communication, and Ministry of the Interior, members of the Judicial Reform Commission, the chair of the parliamentary legal affairs committee, owners/directors of newspapers, journalists, and the journalists' syndicate. The U.S. Embassy was instrumental in scheduling many of these meetings, and the Embassy also hosted a dinner for FH/ICFJ with select members of the Judicial Reform Commission.

Based on the assessment trip, FH/ICFJ composed post-trip reports and developed a workplan combining U.S.-based and in-country training and targeted assistance to NGOs and the media. The workplan was reviewed and approved by the USAID/State Department inter-agency taskforce this quarter.

Freedom House will implement U.S. Counterpart training, comprised of 10-week internships for six participants through its Visiting Fellows Program and a two-week study visit for seven participants. Candidates for both programs will be chosen from NGOs focusing on human rights and justice sector reform issues as well as members of the media covering those issues.

Freedom House will also implement a one-week NGO Policy Advocacy Training Workshop, targeted at members of human rights and rule of law-oriented NGOs. The workshop aims to (1) build understanding and vision for policy advocacy in judicial reform and improved human rights protections in Algeria; (2) develop skills in policy advocacy; and (3) forge partnerships among NGOs and between NGOs and the media to affect judicial reform. Freedom House will deploy two short-term advisors in the Spring to provide on-site assistance in carrying out advocacy initiatives.

This quarter, Freedom House developed program descriptions and announcements in French and Arabic, and coordinated with the International Federation of Journalists, a local partner, to distribute and collect applications for the Visiting Fellows Program. Freedom House was also in close contact with the U.S. Embassy in Algiers to discuss coordination and collaboration. The Embassy was very encouraging about the project, and through its press office, will arrange for the publication of an advertisement announcing the program in several prominent Algerian newspapers, including *El Khabar*, *Le Soir D'Algerie*, *La Tribune*, and *El Watan*. Freedom House will also distribute applications through direct mailings to approximately 40 contacts made during the assessment trip. The RIGHTS Consortium Director and the FH Director of Exchange Programs will travel to Algeria in early December to interview candidates for the program.

As part of the training and support to independent media, ICFJ will implement a one-week, in-country program to take place in Algiers on November 18-22, 2000, consisting of a series of hands-on workshops targeted at 15 key Algerian print journalists. These workshops are designed to improve the capacity of Algerian journalists to effectively investigate and objectively report on issues relating to human rights and democratic reform in Algeria, as well as increase the understanding of Algerian journalists of the importance of judicial independence and other judicial reform issues.

This quarter, ICFJ contracted its workshop trainer, a journalist and consultant with 25 years of experience in the international media, who currently specializes in training programs for professional journalists in Central Europe and Africa. ICFJ also prepared and translated an application for journalists interested in the program and began developing a more specific agenda for the program, designing lectures, panel discussions, video presentations, participant exercises and other sessions. Several of these sessions will deal specifically with coverage of human rights and rule of law issues while others will deal with wide-ranging journalistic topics, such as investigative reporting. Materials to be used during the sessions include ICFJ's manual

for investigative reporting, which is being translated into French for this program. Other materials will include textbooks, videotapes, handouts, and written exercises.

ICFJ also secured a local partner to help disseminate and collect the applications and to offer in-country logistical support to prepare for the program and began making contacts with journalists, jurists, government and legal experts, representatives of NGOs, and others who can serve as co-facilitators and panelists during the workshop.

ICFJ also began developing a survey on human rights and rule of law issues that will be given to participants at the beginning and end of the workshop. This survey will be used as an assessment tool to measure how well the workshop accomplished its goals of raising knowledge of those issues, awareness of their importance and commitment to reporting on them.

FH/ICFJ met the newly confirmed Ambassador to Algeria, Janet Sanderson, and informed her of the upcoming program. FH and ICFJ also consulted with Assistant Secretary Harold Koh in preparation for his trip to the region (Secretary Koh's trip was later canceled due to security concerns).

2. East Timor Human Rights Support Program

This quarter, the Consortium began implementation of its program to provide assistance to the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) criminal investigations, and to indigenous human rights groups to strengthen their programmatic and institutional capacity. During the quarter, Freedom House Chief of Party, Mr. Ron West, opened the Consortium office in Dili (next door to the UNTAET headquarters). In addition to participating in the start-up assessment, the Chief of Party is the on-ground coordinator for project activity with local partners, UNTAET departments, the East Timor Transitional Authority, US government officials, and international NGOs and donors. Mr. West is now on several working groups covering issues of rule of law development, civic education, and human rights affairs, and providing all of the logistical support and trouble-shooting for the US-funded rule of law programs.

Freedom House and its partner, the Coalition for International Justice (CIJ), sent a team to East Timor with the FH's Chief of Party in September. The team included Lisa Davis, RIGHTS Program Director, Lori Jenkins, FH's NGO Technical Consultant, and Stefanie Frease, the CIJ Program Officer (and former prosecutor at the Hague.) The trip allowed FH and CIJ to assess on-ground needs and refine the implementation plans and budget for the project, as well as announce the program to local partners. Based on the in-country assessment, Freedom House designed a training and support program with a two-phased approach. It will target both program and institutional capacity building of human rights groups operating primarily in Dili, with an emphasis on increasing their outreach capacity to districts outside of Dili. Freedom House will work with regional human rights training consultants to provide training and on-site technical assistance in a range of human rights issues to NGO leaders, staff, and others involved in human rights initiatives. The follow-up phase will consist of comprehensive organizational development training and technical assistance. It will include an on-site organizational assessment of each group participating in the program, an organizational development training retreat with technical

assistance to help local organizations in structure, strategic planning, organizational policies, financial management; board of directors training, and training in project management.

Although all formal East Timorese groups and organizations working in areas of human rights will be invited to apply, emphasis will be placed on engaging the following groups that have been active in human rights work: the East Timorese Jurists Association, the Justice and Peace Commission, Yayasan Hak (Law, Human Rights, & Justice Foundation), Fokupers (women's rights), East Timor Human Rights Center, East Timor Human Rights Commission, and Sahe Institute for Liberation.

After substantive discussions with possible regional training partners, Freedom House is in the final stages of reviewing/approving a subgrant proposal from a regional training partner. The leading candidate is the Asian Human Rights Commission in Hong Kong, an organization that has played an active role in South East Asia, has consultative status before the UN, and has recently worked in East Timor. The candidate possesses strong organizational capacity in human rights monitoring and advocacy, human rights education, and training of trainers. The Freedom House NGO Development Specialist, Dr. Lori Jenkins, will work with and oversee the implementation of the training and technical assistance provided by the regional training partner.

Ms. Stefanie Frease, the CIJ representative, participated in the needs assessment mission to East Timor in September 2000. The purpose of CIJ's trip was threefold: first, to meet and work with the Chief of Investigations of the Serious Crimes Investigations Unit (SCIU) to discuss team composition and to select candidates for the six positions; second, to assess the need for additional equipment and/or support to allow the team to conduct its work; and third, to determine the mechanism by which team members would be attached to UNTAET.

Significant time was spent with the SCIU Chief of Investigations discussing the current staffing of the investigation unit and the areas in which it was most understaffed. CIJ and UNTAET concluded that a mixed team of professionals including criminal investigators, analysts, and prosecutors would be most useful. A preliminary group of candidates was selected from among the *curricula vitae* CIJ had screened and, upon returning to Washington, D.C., CIJ began the hiring process. As of 30 September two candidates had accepted offers and are scheduled to deploy on 24 October and 15 November 2000.

The assessment mission revealed the need for interpreters and camping equipment—both deemed essential for team members to conduct their work. The lack of interpreters has forced the SCIU to postpone investigation missions. In order for team members to be able to operate rapidly upon arrival in East Timor, it will be necessary to provide funds to hire interpreters.

Equally important is the need to allocate a lump-sum amount to each professional to purchase camping equipment used during interview missions outside Dili. Investigations often focus on distinct geographic areas and require trips into the country for several days. Limited accommodation makes camping a necessity.

Meetings were held with various staff members within UNTAET to determine the most expeditious way to formalize the relationship between team members and UNTAET. The

approach recommended by both the personnel office and the Donor Contribution unit was to consider this program an "in-kind contribution" from the United States government formalized through a scope of services agreement. The U.S. Government representative in Dili wrote this agreement and delivered it to UNTAET. The agreement required approval by the Deputy Transitional Administrator or the Transitional Administrator.

3. Strengthening Human Rights Defenders in Uzbekistan

The RIGHTS Consortium continued work on its project in Uzbekistan to strengthen the capacity of local NGOs and train indigenous groups in human rights monitoring. The Uzbek government's campaign against human rights defenders has exacerbated the operational problems that many of the defenders face. These difficulties include isolation from the human rights community, a lack of resources and equipment, and the inability to gain access to court proceedings and places of detention. To help address these problems, the Consortium submitted a concept paper for a project taking a two-pronged approach to assuaging the human rights crisis in Uzbekistan. The project aims to support local human rights groups by strengthening their organizational structures, substantive knowledge, and skills; providing motivation and strategic vision for addressing current obstacles; and mapping out strategies for improving the operating context for human rights defenders and human rights protection through domestic initiatives. The program also plans to send three leading human rights defenders to Uzbekistan who have had to struggle for human rights gains in other repressive societies. USAID approved the project and authorized use of Rapid Response funds for its implementation.

This quarter, the Consortium engaged its Central Asian specialist, who will make an initial trip to Uzbekistan in November to meet with local defenders, other international organizations working in Uzbekistan, and government officials. Freedom House also informed the Uzbekistan Country Desk Officer at the State Department about the project, as well as the Political Officer handling human rights matters at the U.S. Embassy in Tashkent. Freedom House began coordinating with Consortium Partner ABA/CEELI, who will offer logistical in-country assistance to the project.

D. Associate Awards

Associate Award mechanisms allow the RIGHTS Consortium to support longer-term, more comprehensive rule of law and human rights development activities by providing technical expertise and training. During the sixth quarter, the Consortium has continued to work to improve the access to justice for permanent resident non-citizens of Latvia, most of whom are ethnic minorities, by strengthening the institutional capacity of the Latvian Naturalization Board's Information Center. In addition, ABA/CEELI continued to expand its War Crimes Documentation Project (WCDP) through the RIGHTS Consortium.

1. Improving Human Rights and Access to Justice for National Minorities in the Republic of Latvia

On March 15, 1999, USAID-Latvia awarded a grant in the amount of \$500,000 to Freedom House to sponsor the Latvian Naturalization Project. The purpose of the project is to strengthen rule of law and human rights by supporting the naturalization processes for the large national

minority populations. USAID awarded FH an additional \$95,195 to support technical assistance and a subgrant to the Latvian Folk School for a pilot fast track language training program for citizenship applicants. During this quarter, FH's language training expert, Susan Steinbach, returned to Latvia to work with local partners, the Latvian Folk School (an NGO subgrantee) and the Latvian Naturalization Board.

During this quarter, Freedom House provide on-site technical advice in carrying out a final evaluation of the pilot fast-track language training program, in making technical modifications to the language program, in strategic planning, proposal writing, and budget preparation for a national expansion plan, and in fundraising initiatives with possible funders – foreign, local, public, and private. Freedom House also provided technical assistance and funding for the design and launching of a website for the Folk School which is online at <http://lts.from.lv>. The website is one source of community outreach to non-citizens to advertise the language training program and to put on-line language training resources.

The fast-track language training program was launched in four pilot cities. Designed to support the naturalization process, it targets the 20 percent of non-citizens who have no Latvian language skills, as well as the 40 percent who have insufficient Latvian language knowledge to pass the citizenship exam. The Freedom House advisor provided technical assistance and training to the Folk School, which contributed to the development of: (1) new teaching methodologies and teacher performance and evaluation programs; (2) curriculum and resource development (including a Russian-Latvian glossary of terms); (3) revision of the placement exam for language students; and (4) transparent procedures for advertising classes, registering students, and promoting the program nationally and locally. The Folk School and the LNB set up a joint steering committee to oversee the pilot project and developed a sound monitoring and evaluation plan. As a result of a well-planned nationwide announcement of the program, the project received an overwhelming response from applicants. Due to the high demand, the Folk School created additional classes, assembled a waiting list for the overflow demand for the second round of the pilot project, increased the number of teachers from 15 to 20, and offered classes at three different times of day. During the first year, 876 applicants received language training, achieving a passage rate of 88 percent for naturalization test takers.

In September, the Folk School and the LNB held a donors meeting with foreign governments, international organizations, foundations, and local officials to present the results of the pilot project and to request support for the national expansion. Donors showed great interest in the successful results of the pilot project, and as a result, the United Nations Development Program agreed to be the coordinating agency for foreign contributions to support the national expansion.

2. ABA/CEELI War Crimes Documentation Project

a) Development of Computer Database Technology for Witness Testimony

ABA/CEELI has continued to work with Chicago-Kent College of Law on the development of the database, a new interview form, and the corresponding training manual. The new database format includes features recommended by the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and human rights statisticians at the American Academy for the

Advancement of Science (AAAS). All of the main components of the database have been completed and are currently under review and testing by ABA/CEELI, Chicago-Kent, and AAAS. This will be followed by a more formal peer review of the database.

b) Institutional Development of NGO Partners

As previously reported, ABA/CEELI, through Vicki Gross, its Regional Institutional Building Advisor (RIBA), has aided The Center, Peace Through Justice in developing a strategic plan and financial plan. The Center recently finalized its implementation plan. Ms. Gross plans to conduct follow-up work with The Center in November.

c) Ongoing Witness Interviews and Data Entry

ABA/CEELI and its local Kosovar partner NGO, the Council for Defense of Human Rights and Freedoms (the Council), completed a three-month field interviewing project in August. ABA/CEELI's coordination with the Council has proven very effective. Under the direction of the ICTY, ABA/CEELI and the Council have collected testimonies of victims and witnesses throughout the eastern half of Kosovo. This part of the region has been the least documented to date. At the end of this reporting period, we have completed approximately 500 forms on human rights violations and 900 *ante mortem* forms (see below). These forms are currently being translated into English. The Council has also agreed to continue interviewing for the remainder of the fall.

d) Victim Identification

ICTY exhumation teams continue to work on the mass grave sights throughout Kosovo. The rolls of missing persons still number in the thousands. As reported above, ABA/CEELI has continued the collection of *ante mortem* data in conjunction with the Council. As of the end of this reporting period, we have completed approximately 900 forms. All forms are turned over to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) for processing.

The Physicians for Human Rights (PHR) database was selected to house and query all the *ante mortem* and *post mortem* data that is collected. This data will aid in the identification of remains by matching them with known missing persons. The database is still not functional, due to a number of software related problems. The UNMIK Civil Police have the responsibility of obtaining a properly functioning database.

e) Minority Population Documentation Project

Plans are currently underway for the next phase of human rights abuses documentation in minority communities in Kosovo. ABA/CEELI has executed a subgrant with a local NGO, Civic House, to identify and support minority interviewers. In addition, ABA/CEELI has been consulting with ICTY on the interview form and potential sites for interviewing. The minority interviewing process will also include an *ante mortem* data collection component. Once interviewers and target communities are identified, the interviewers are trained, and a security protocol has been arranged, the actual interviewing will begin.

f) Public Awareness

During the reporting period, ABA/CEELI completed its pilot statistical analysis of the refugee interview data collected by ABA/CEELI, Human Rights Watch, and PHR. The report, developed in cooperation with AAAS, is scheduled for release in October. Once released, the publication will be sent to the ICTY, UN, UNHCR, Council Europe, and NGOs that work on war crimes or human rights abuses. The report is also online at www.hrdata.aaas.org/kosovo/pk.

ABA/CEELI also completed its work with the International Independent Commission on Kosovo. The human rights research, conducted by ABA/CEELI, as well as lessons learned from the documentation process will be included in the Commission's final report. The report is scheduled to be presented to UN Secretary General, Kofi Anan, on October 23, 2000.

g) Local Capacity to Document and Prosecute War Crimes

ABA/CEELI continued its involvement with the formation of the Office of the Defense. This office will serve as a resource and coordination center for defense counsel working in the Kosovo courts. OSCE, the coordinating organization, established a department this summer to facilitate the formation of the Office of Defense. The primary goal this project is to strengthen the capacity of Kosovar defense attorneys and provide for competent representation of individuals who have been accused of committing violations of human rights.

3. ABA/CEELI Kosovo Rule of Law Associate Award

The RIGHTS Consortium granted two tranches to ABA/CEELI for support of its Kosovo Rule of Law Program. One portion of this project focuses on the development of a website with links to adopted legislation, a legal index, commentaries, and other relevant information, and the development of a public education campaign and support of indigenous, legal reform nongovernmental organizations. Additional support includes funding for expert technical assistance and logistical support in the areas of legislative analysis, drafting and consultation, as well as translation support in court proceedings.

III. Summary

During the sixth quarter, the RIGHTS Consortium began programmatic work on a number of projects that were approved by USAID in the previous quarter. Freedom House, along with the International Center for Journalists (a Consortium Associate Partner), conducted an assessment trip to Algiers for the Algeria Rule of Law project. As a result of the assessment, the Consortium submitted and received USAID approval of a project workplan, which will focus on NGOs and the media, bolstering their capacity to advocate for human rights reform and improved human rights protections. In mid-September, Freedom House and the Coalition for International Justice (CIJ) completed an assessment trip to East Timor. Freedom House engaged an NGO Training Specialist, and with its Chief of Party, established the Consortium office in Dili. It also developed an implementation strategy to support the capacity of human rights NGOs. At the same time, CIJ completed preparations to send the first three of six investigators who will be

seconded to the UNTAET office of Serious Crimes to aid in the investigation of serious crimes. The Consortium also engaged a Central Asia specialist for its project on Strengthening Human Rights Defenders in Uzbekistan. The specialist will conduct an initial trip to Uzbekistan in the next quarter to establish a program to build both the technical and substantive capacity of human rights defenders.

Progress on the Consortium's associate awards also continued apace. The database for ABA/CEELI's War Crimes Documentation Project has grown and a local partner, the Center "Peace Through Justice," is working to identify and document the human rights violations that occurred during the Kosovo crisis. Freedom House assisted a local NGO and government partner in Latvia to improve and accelerate the naturalization process for non-citizens through a fast-track language training program – now ready for national expansion.

The Consortium also conducted a number of leadership activities, developing more precisely the criteria for creating the Gender and ICCPR indices, accepting a quotation to design the website, completing a draft of a report of the African Constitutional Renaissance Conference, and broadcasting a series of anti-corruption Public Service Announcements in Paraguay.

As the accomplishments of this quarter demonstrate, the Consortium's activities are helping to build local institutional capacity in countries in transition to promote positive rule of law reform and improved human rights protections.