

# **Rule of Law Initiative / Global Human Rights Training and Support**

## **The RIGHTS Consortium**

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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).

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### **Fifth Interim Narrative Report**

**Reporting Period: April 1 – June 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. 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 currently include a grant in the amount of \$500,000 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 fifth interim reporting period of April 1 – June 30, 2000.

## **II. Program Activities**

During the fifth quarter, the RIGHTS Consortium focused its activities on further developing and preparing for implementation of its Algeria, East Timor and Uzbekistan programs. After submitting and receiving approval for its “Strengthening Rule of Law and Human Rights in Algeria” project, FH and the International Center for Journalists, a Consortium partner, initiated the start-up phase of the Algeria project and will undertake an assessment trip at the start of the next quarter. The program aims to strengthen the institutional capacity of NGOs and the independent media to report on and advocate for reform and improved human rights protection through a combination of in-country trainings and U.S.-based programs. Through discussions and negotiations with the State Department and potential project partners, the Consortium also completed the initial program design and submitted a proposal for a rapid response program to promote justice and accountability in East Timor. The program will provide personnel to assist in the investigation and prosecution of recent human rights atrocities and build the capacity of local NGOs to monitor human rights and advocate for human rights protections. The RIGHTS Consortium received informal approval for its program “Strengthening Human Rights Defenders,” which will provide assistance to human rights groups and individual human rights defenders in Uzbekistan. Freedom House activity will start once USAID authorizes drawdown on rapid response funds for these projects.

The RIGHTS Consortium also continued its technical leadership activity under the leader cooperative agreement. Consortium member Freedom House engaged a consultant for the development of the RIGHTS Consortium website, which will serve as a clearinghouse for Consortium activities and as an interactive resource for technical assistance tools and human rights documentation. Consortium member ABA/CEELI continued work on its diagnostic assessment tools, completing a draft of the ICCPR index and progressing on the format and content of the Gender Index. Consortium member NDI completed a draft of its report on the African Constitutional Renaissance Conference and continued to process the subgrant for Radio Trinidad to produce anti-corruption public service announcements (PSAs).

The National Democratic Institute for Democracy (NDI), as a partner of the Consortium, submitted a proposal to USAID for a program in Morocco, “Promoting Ethics in Government.” Morocco currently has the lowest rate of economic growth in the Middle East and North Africa in part because of endemic corruption. The program is aimed at institutionalizing public integrity

by providing technical assistance on drafting, publishing and implementing a code of ethics for government employees. NDI, with its on-ground presence in Rabat, plans to assist the current government-led efforts to “moralize public life.” NDI will provide technical assistance in the drafting of a code of ethics for civil servants and building public consensus for the creation and implementation of the code. This will be done through the establishment of several working groups comprised of local participants, as well as through International Ethics Resource Team (ERT), which would include four to six international ethics experts.

## **A. 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 fifth quarter, the RIGHTS Consortium continued to develop several technical leadership activities.

### *1. Diagnostic Tools Development Work*

ABA/CEELI has done extensive research on both content and formatting for the Gender Index and the Political and Civil Rights Index (ICCPR Index). A format that incorporates pieces from several other similar bodies of work has been devised and a working draft has been completed for the ICCPR index and is in progress for the Gender Index. ABA/CEELI will now begin to consolidate all of the content research into these working drafts and begin devising a scoring system for both of the indices.

Work on FH’s Human Rights Defender assessment tool has not been started. The working group will be constituted in the next quarter, and a draft of the tool should be completed in early 2001.

### *2. RIGHTS Consortium Website Development*

During this quarter, the RIGHTS Consortium signed a consultancy agreement with Belmont Design to design and create the Consortium website ([www.rightsconsortium.org](http://www.rightsconsortium.org)). The site will feature information on current RIGHTS projects (divided by country and by activity); interactive training components including discussion bulletin boards; technical assistance tools; and human rights/rule of law documentation. The consultant is in working discussions with the Chicago-Kent Law School to allow for direct access to their collection of human rights documents from the RIGHTS Consortium website. In the next quarter, Belmont Design will provide a detailed site map, and a shadow website should be ready by September.

### *3. African Constitutional Renaissance Conference (Southern Africa)*

This quarter, NDI consultant Andrew Reynolds completed an initial draft for comment of a report of the findings from the conference "On the Road to Democracy and Constitutionalism: Constitutionalism in Africa over the Last 40 Years." Using audiotapes of conference sessions and collected presentation papers, the consultant summarized and synthesized lessons learned

through the conference. This report is being circulated to several conference participants for comment and a final report will be submitted to USAID in the next quarter.

#### 4. *Anti-Corruption Educational Campaign in the Americas*

This quarter, NDI processed the subgrant for Radio Trinidad to produce anti-corruption public service announcements (PSAs), but no activities have yet taken place. All of the audit reports were translated into English – a prerequisite for training – this quarter. Once Radio Trinidad receives the funds it will start developing the script for the PSAs. Next quarter, NDI will send a Venezuelan consultant to serve as a technical advisor to Radio Trinidad on the adaptation of the original PSAs to the radio-friendly format. In addition, NDI will distribute the tapes to NGOs through its Latin America and Caribbean Civic Network, a clearinghouse linking together more than 60 leading democratic development NGOs in the region.

### **B. Rapid Response and Development Assistance under the Leader Cooperative**

#### 1. *Strengthening Rule of Law and Human Rights in Algeria*

The Consortium submitted a proposal and received approval for a project to improve the long-term viability of rule of law initiatives in Algeria. The 15-month project, which aims to strengthen rule of law and human rights protections, 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.

Freedom House will implement the Algeria rule of law program. In addition, Freedom House invited one RIGHTS Consortium associate partner to participate, the International Center for Journalists (ICFJ). The ICFJ will design and carry out in-country training workshops to improve the capacity of Algerian journalists to investigate and objectively report on issues related to human rights and democratic reform. The ICFJ plans to conduct a series of workshops designed to identify issues related to human rights, and demonstrate journalistic techniques and practices for covering these issues.

The Consortium completed preparations for its assessment trip, scheduled for the first week of July. Lisa Davis, RIGHTS Program Director, and George Krinsky of ICFJ, will be traveling to Algiers to conduct a one-week assessment. In preparation for the trip, Freedom House continued discussions with experts in the area of human rights and rule of law in Algeria to gain insight

into the current situation, as well as obtain additional relevant contacts. Consortium partner NDI offered extensive contacts for human rights activists and lawyers, relevant government officials, and members of the independent media. NDI also provided assistance in securing a local driver and interpreter/logistics coordinator. The U.S. Embassy in Algiers was helpful in providing assistance in contacting government officials involved in judicial reform. Abderrahim Sabir, of Amnesty International, provided contact information for leaders of human rights NGOs.

The assessment team plans to meet with members of the independent media, including the directors of *Liberté*, *Le Matin*, *El Khabar*, *El Watan* and *Le Jeune Indépendant*, to discuss current laws relating to freedom of the press, the role of the state in the press, coverage of human rights and rule of law issues, as well as the training desires of journalists and editors. The team will also meet with leaders/members of NGOs who deal with human rights and/or rule of law issues, including the Ligue Algerien de Droits de l'Homme (LADH), the Ligue Algerien de Defense de Droits de l'Homme (LADDH), and Djazairouna, a victims of terrorism organization, among others, to discuss the capacity of Algerian NGOs to monitor human rights violations and advocate for greater human rights protections and rule of law reforms. Meetings are also planned with members of the Judicial Reform Commission, representatives of the bar association, the president of the judges' union, Mr. Tayeb LOUH, and private attorneys, including Mostepha Bouchachi, Mahmoud Khelili, Rachid Mesli, and Mohamed Tahri to discuss current justice sector reform initiatives. During the seven-day trip, the assessment team will also identify reform-oriented government officials, human rights activists, academics and independent journalists to participate in U.S.-counterpart and in-country training. The team will also examine the security climate in Algeria to determine if current conditions permit in-country training.

In sum, the trip findings will allow the Consortium to refine its programmatic activities based on specific and concrete openings for reform. The results of the assessment will reveal priority issues for which U.S. and in-country training and technical assistance can be targeted to support concrete rule of law reform, including legal reform and increased protection of human rights. Based on the assessment, the RIGHTS Consortium will prepare a workplan with clearly defined substantive priorities.

## 2. East Timor Human Rights Support

This quarter, through consultation with the State Department, the RIGHTS Consortium crafted and submitted to USAID a proposal for the "East Timor Human Rights Support Program," which will help satisfy the urgent need to provide assistance for investigations of human rights atrocities surrounding the September 1999 referendum on independence and support East Timorese efforts to monitor and respond to ongoing human rights abuses. The project features two central components. It will:

- Provide training and technical assistance to build the capacity of indigenous human rights organizations.
- Deploy experienced Criminal Investigators to work UNTAET's Office of Serious Crimes to assist in the coordination and conduct of investigations in Dili and surrounding environs.

The proposal submitted this quarter included a project component providing an international law advisor to work with and be stationed within the UNTAET Office of Human Rights Affairs. Through discussions with the State Department, the Consortium chose not to include this project component. After further consultations with the State Department, the Consortium decided to station a Chief of Party in Dili to serve as an in-country presence and remain in close contact with relevant government officials, international donors and local NGOs to coordinate the planned NGO training and secondment of investigators.

Freedom House will implement the project, place a Chief of Party in Dili and provide an NGO training specialist to identify and train local groups and individuals to strengthen organizational capacity, geographical outreach, monitoring and advocacy skills, and increase knowledge and understanding of international human rights standards and practices. FH has identified its NGO training specialist, an expert in providing targeted training and technical assistance to local NGOs. With consultation with the State Department, discussions continued between FH, the Coalition for International Justice (CIJ), an international non-governmental organization with extensive experience in forensic and criminal investigations, and Physicians for Human Rights (PHR), a non-profit organization that applies medicine and science to the protection of international human rights, on the deployment of investigators to East Timor. By the quarter's end, PHR chose not to participate in the project, citing lack of information regarding expectations for the forensic investigators.

Next quarter, CIJ will begin recruitment of the six investigators, and a Freedom House-CIJ team will conduct an assessment trip to East Timor to examine the status of investigations into past human rights atrocities; the role and capacity of human rights NGOs in East Timor to monitor the current human rights situation and respond to current abuses; the activities of other international donor organizations working in East Timor; meet with local NGOs and identify potential local counterparts. Conversations among FH, CIJ, State-DRL and the US Embassy in Jakarta are ongoing regarding the logistical and legal arrangements for the secondment of investigators to UNTAET.

### 3. *Strengthening Human Rights Defenders in Uzbekistan*

The RIGHTS Consortium received informal approval for its program "Strengthening Human Rights Defenders," which will provide assistance to human rights groups and individual human rights defenders in Uzbekistan during a period that may be accurately termed a human rights crisis. The program will 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. At the same time, the program will send three leading human rights defenders to Uzbekistan who have struggled for human rights gains in other repressive societies. Ideally, upon their return to their native countries, these human rights defenders will serve as a voice to inform their own governments about the current situation in Uzbekistan, thus increasing the international pressure on the regime of President Islam Karimov. The Consortium has engaged a Central Asia consultant, who has extensive regional expertise and experience in human rights training. The

concept paper for this project was submitted in response to a request last quarter from the State Department Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, which was seeking to create a program that would strengthen the capacity of local NGOs and train indigenous groups in human rights monitoring.

In April, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright traveled to Uzbekistan and announced U.S. support for human rights in Uzbekistan. The Consortium Program Director attended a State Department briefing following the Secretary's trip. Through this briefing and research into the specifics of human rights violations in Uzbekistan, the Consortium has begun identifying potential participants in a training program, the needs of human rights NGOs that may be filled by small grants, including computer equipment, internet access, and training and access to an international human rights monitoring network such as HURIDOCs.

FH discussed the program with Consortium partner ABA-CEELI, which has an active legal training program in Uzbekistan. ABA-CEELI will play an important "behind the scenes" role, sharing knowledge of the local legal community, the status of Uzbek criminal and civil law, and the legal aspects of human rights advocacy.

Once the Consortium receives formal written approval for the program, FH will initiate a start-up phase that will include a one-week in-country assessment trip to introduce the project to local HRDs, determine their current activities, capacities and needs, as well as assess the extent and implications of government monitoring of the Uzbek human rights community to determine the viability of in-country training and bringing in HRDs from other countries.

### **C. 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 fifth 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. By working to increase the number of people applying for citizenship, the project enhances Latvia's social integration and improves the legal position of the country's ethnic-minority population. 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. Through the USAID Latvian Naturalization Project, Freedom House provides technical assistance, training and support to the Latvian Naturalization Board (LNB) and its new Information Center (IC) to strengthen outreach to non-citizens and promote naturalization.

Last quarter, Freedom house awarded a grant of \$79,600 to the Latvian Folk School to implement a fast-track language training program. This quarter, Ms. Susan Steinbach, Freedom House's Language Training Specialist, submitted to Freedom House her mid-point evaluation of the Fast Track Latvian Language Training Pilot Project. The report was based on last quarter's on-site evaluation of the project, during which Ms. Steinbach and FH Resident Advisor Virginia Sullivan also provided technical assistance and training to teachers and administrators at the Latvian Folk School. At its mid-point, the program made it possible for more than 300 people to attend free language classes. Of this number, 98 percent passed the language portion of the naturalization test. Ms. Steinbach also provided the Latvian Folk School with assistance in crafting a proposal for a Latvian-Russian Dictionary/ Glossary to supplement the resources currently available for non-citizens undergoing the language training needed to pass the naturalization exam.

After a year of service in developing and monitoring the project, the Freedom House resident advisor concluded her in-country technical assistance in May. Prior to her departure, the LNB sponsored a press conference to report on the success of the FH program. Ms. Sullivan drafted a statement detailing the achievements of the project which was translated into Latvian for the press kits. Ms. Sullivan submitted to Freedom House her final report of the project.

Freedom House also engaged a web designer in Riga to complete work on the web page of the Latvian Naturalization Board. The website will be targeted at members of the minority population seeking to become Latvian citizens and will both promote naturalization and provide concrete information on naturalization procedures.

During the previous quarter, the project monitored \$60,600 in grants to seven NGOs given through a subgrant program. The activities of these organizations, completed this quarter, reached target audiences throughout Latvia, and featured projects that employed the print media, radio, and television to promote citizenship and naturalization.

[For more information, please review the Freedom House Quarterly Report submitted to USAID for the Latvian Naturalization Project.]

## *2. ABA/CEELI War Crimes Documentation Project*

### **A. Development of Computer Database Technology for Witness Testimony**

In April, ABA/CEELI attended a three-day working meeting hosted by Chicago-Kent College of Law on 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). Currently, the data entry component and configuration component of the database have been completed and are undergoing review. The statistics component and the interface component, which will allow for the recoding of the interview data already collected, are scheduled to be completed during the next reporting period.

## **B. Institutional Development of NGO Partners**

ABA/CEELI continued to work with its primary local partner, The Center "Peace Through Justice," to develop the organization's institutional capacity. The ABA/CEELI Regional Institution Building Advisor, Vicki Gross, traveled to Tirana twice to assist The Center in developing a strategic plan, financial plan, and implementation strategy. Of these activities, the strategic and financial plans have been completed and development of the implementation strategy is in its final stages. ABA/CEELI also worked with The Center to develop two successful grant proposals in order to expand The Center's activity base. As a result of these efforts, The Center had received funding from the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and the UN Children's Fund to conduct programs involving political asylum issues and legal aid clinics for minors.

ABA/CEELI also began work with a local Kosovar NGO, the Council for Defense of Human Rights and Freedoms. In April, ABA/CEELI held a training workshop for Council interviewers on international human rights standards, interviewing techniques, and use of the human rights violations and ante mortem data collection forms.

## **C. Ongoing Witness Interviews and Data Entry**

During the reporting period, ABA/CEELI undertook a new interviewing initiative in conjunction with the Council. Currently the Council has twenty interviewers working in the field on this project. The field interviewers are using the existing interview form. However, the new form corresponding to the new database will be utilized upon its completion.

At the request of the ICTY, ABA/CEELI also undertook activities in the area of victim identification. In March 2000, the Head of Investigations for the ICTY approached ABA/CEELI to seek assistance in collection and data entry of ante mortem information on missing persons. This information will be cross-referenced with post mortem information collected by ICTY exhumation teams to allow for positive identification of exhumed remains. ABA/CEELI and the Council have begun collection of ante mortem information as part of the witness interviewing process and has hired personnel to check the English translations of the completed forms and to provide quality control over the data entry process. In this project, ABA/CEELI is cooperating closely with OSCE, Transcultural Psychosocial Organization (TPO), the International Commission of the Red Cross (ICRC), and KFOR, under the auspices of the Victim Recovery and Identification Commission (VRIC), created by UNMIK.

## **D. Public Awareness**

During the reporting period, ABA/CEELI made significant progress on two major public awareness activities. The first project is a pilot statistical analysis of the refugee interview data collected by ABA/CEELI, Human Rights Watch, and Physicians for Human Rights. The purpose of the study is to determine the number of people killed during the Kosovo crisis. As a

first step in this process, the data from all three organizations was recoded in order to allow for analysis by statisticians at AAAS. Once recoded, the datasets were cross-checked to measure incidences of multiple reporting of the same event. AAAS has completed its preliminary analysis. However, this analysis must be peer reviewed before the final results are released. This process is scheduled to be completed, and the final report published, during the next reporting period. This project will not only provide valuable information to the public regarding the war in Kosovo, but also demonstrates the power of cooperation among NGOs engaged in data collection.

ABA/CEELI has continued to assist the Independent International Commission on Kosovo (IICK) as it drafts its report on the events in Kosovo. The IICK, formed by the Government of Sweden, has a mandate to examine key development prior to, during, and after the Kosovo war, including systematic violations of human rights in the region. ABA/CEELI has shared its draft of a report on the human rights situation in Kosovo from 1974 through December 1999. The report also includes a discussion of the data collection process and recommendations for improving the documenting process in the future. This report will be submitted to USAID and the State Department under separate cover. ABA/CEELI's contribution to the IICK will serve to increase public awareness of human rights violations in Kosovo, the human rights monitoring and documenting process, and lessons learned in this regard. More specifically, the IICK will be including in their look at major findings, ABA/CEELI's recommendations and experience regarding coordination in data collection and analysis.

#### **E. Additional Projects**

ABA/CEELI has assisted in the efforts to form a Kosovo War and Ethnic Crimes Court (KWECC). The idea behind the KWECC is to provide a local court with the expertise and resources to try war crimes and related cases. As a member of the KWECC working group, ABA/CEELI has been involved primarily in developing a training program and a structure for coordinating defense counsel. ABA/CEELI has identified war crimes cases from The Hague, which will be used in training judges, prosecutors, and defense counsel who practice in the KWECC. These cases will be translated into Albanian and Serbian by ABA/CEELI's Rule of Law Legislative Secretariat.

In regard to defense counsel, while much attention has been given to the appointment of judges and prosecutors, little attention has been paid to representation of the accused. An organization to coordinate defense counsel for those accused of either war crimes or ethnically motivated hate crimes is necessary to ensure a fair trial process.

In response, the KWECC working group has proposed the formation of an Office of Defense to serve as a resource and coordination center. A small number of attorneys will staff the office full time. Their duties will include providing legal resources to defense counsel and to monitor cases to ensure that each defendant has adequate counsel. These attorneys would be in a position to petition the KWECC as *amicus curiae* in the event a particular defense counsel was either inadequate or was using his/her position to make a political statement. A mix of international and local attorneys will be sought to staff this office.

Pursuant to this goal, ABA/CEELI is working with OCSE, the International Criminal Defense Attorneys Association, and Avocats Sans Frontieres to contact criminal defense bar associations for recommendations of qualified counsel to serve in Kosovo. In addition, ABA/CEELI plans to post a short-term legal specialist to Prishtina to provide defense counsel training.

### **III. Summary**

The Consortium focused its energies on programmatic development during this fifth quarter.. Freedom House and the International Center for Journalists (a RIGHTS Consortium Associate Partner), received approval for a program “Strengthening Human Rights and the Rule of Law in Algeria,” and are prepared to undertake an assessment trip. The Algerian project will focus on NGOs and the media, bolstering the capacity of these civil society actors to advocate for justice sector reform and improved human rights protections. This quarter, RIGHTS responded to two requests for assistance by the State Department. To promote justice and accountability in East Timor, Freedom House, working with the Committee for International Justice, designed a program to provide expertise in criminal investigations, and technical assistance and training to indigenous human rights NGOs. The Consortium also responded to a State Department request on Uzbekistan, designing a program to strengthen the knowledge and skills of local human rights defenders. The Consortium also broadened its technical experts database by adding a number of scholars who had consulted for the Consortium on previous or current projects.

The Consortium continued its work on Leader Grant programs. ABA/CEELI completed further research on the content and formatting for the Gender Index and the Political and Civil Rights Indices and Freedom House engaged a consultant for the RIGHTS website. NDI completed a draft of its report on the African Constitutional Renaissance Conference and prepared to begin activities on its subgrant to Radio Trinidad to produce anti-corruption PSAs.

Progress on the Consortium’s associate awards also continued. For its War Crimes Documentation Project, ABA/CEELI expanded its local partnerships and developed its interviewing, data entry activities and public awareness activities. Freedom House continued its program to promote citizenship for Latvia's 28% non-citizen population by providing grants and technical assistance in project implementation. Freedom House completed its program in support of the Latvian Naturalization Board and continued its support of fast-track language training supported government-NGO partnerships to. The naturalization rate continues to grow since the amendment of the citizenship law in late 1998. All of these activities demonstrate the growing global reach of the RIGHTS Consortium and reaffirms its capacity to engage in activities that strengthen rule of law and promote human rights around the world.