



World Alliance for Citizen Participation

# e-CIVICUS

A Free Weekly Electronic Newsletter Promoting Civic Existence, Expression & Engagement

Please send contributions, comments and questions to [editor@civicus.org](mailto:editor@civicus.org)

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**EDITORS-IN-CHIEF**  
Devendra Tak  
Ingrid Srinath

**EDITORS**  
Nastasya Tay  
Daniel Gray

**OCCASIONAL CONTRIBUTORS**  
Archbishop Njongonkulu Ndungane  
Carol Baloyi  
Ciara O'Sullivan  
Judith Seda  
Henri Valot  
Mandeep S. Tiwana  
Tania Gobena  
Vicente Garcia-Delgado

**ABOUT e-CIVICUS**  
The CIVICUS weekly electronic publication is keeping tens of thousands of people informed of the developments taking place in civil society, the factors that are affecting them and the impact they are having on creating an informed and knowledgeable civil society.

**e-CIVICUS WELCOMES CONTRIBUTIONS**  
e-CIVICUS offers a useful channel through which you and your organisation can share your news, publicise your events and articulate the issues you face. Please send us your contributions by Monday for publication in the coming week to [editor@civicus.org](mailto:editor@civicus.org). All contributions must focus on civil society issues or have a civil society angle. To read

## FROM THE DESK OF CIVICUS' SECRETARY GENERAL



Dear friends and colleagues,

**A tale of two democracies**  
By Ingrid Srinath, Secretary General of CIVICUS

South Africa, where CIVICUS is headquartered, and India, where I come from, are both presently in the throes of general elections. There are many ways in which the two elections are starkly different. The sizes of the electorates – over 668 million in India, over 23 million in South Africa. The periods for which they have been democratically governed – 62 and 15 years respectively. India's last four governments have been fractious coalitions. The ANC in South Africa, despite the recent split in the party, still commands a formidable majority.

[Read more...](#)

We are also extremely excited about the launch of our French issue e-CIVICUS, which will also be a weekly publication, beginning next week. Please do let us know if you – or your colleagues – would like to receive it by emailing [subscriptions@civicus.org](mailto:subscriptions@civicus.org) marked 'French edition of e-CIVICUS'.

With gratitude, faith and solidarity,

Ingrid Srinath

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### Letters to the Editor

e-CIVICUS publishes selected correspondence from its readers - and visitors to the CIVICUS website - in a new section called 'Letters to the Editor'. Please keep such letters short (preferred length of 50 to 200 words) and mention 'Letters to the Editor' in your message or heading. These may be sent to [editor@civicus.org](mailto:editor@civicus.org)

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### CIVICUS Poll Question

**This week's question:**

the contribution guidelines, [click here](#).

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#### CONTACT US

P.O. Box 933  
Southdale, 2135  
South Africa  
Tel: +27 11 833 5959 Fax: +27 11 833 7997

1112 16th Street NW,  
Suite 540  
Washington D.C.  
20036 USA  
Tel: +202 331-8518  
Fax: +202 331-8774

#### Websites:

[www.civicus.org](http://www.civicus.org)  
[www.civicusassembly.org](http://www.civicusassembly.org)

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Join or renew your CIVICUS Membership on-line now [click here](#).



#### Civil Society Watch Monthly Bulletin

The CIVICUS e-newsletter Civil Society Watch Monthly Bulletin is an action-oriented newsletter distributed to over 7,400 people, featuring insightful interviews, updates on threats to civil society, and analyses of current situations. Read more at [www.civicus.org](http://www.civicus.org).

The launch of the French edition of e-CIVICUS later this month would be

- Super
- Useful
- I don't understand French

To answer the question, [click here](#).

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#### JOIN e-CIVICUS - BECOME A CONTRIBUTOR

e-CIVICUS keeps tens of thousands of people and organisations informed of the many developments taking place in civil society around the world. This e-publication seeks to encourage and amplify the voices of those struggling for a more just world. As a subscriber, you know the value e-CIVICUS can bring to your work.

Why don't you suggest to your friends to register for a free subscription? They can send an email to [subscriptions@civicus.org](mailto:subscriptions@civicus.org) or fill out the subscription form [here](#). Alternatively, please forward their email addresses to us and we'll contact them on your behalf. Please send your contributions by Monday every week to [editor@civicus.org](mailto:editor@civicus.org). All contributions must be focused on civil society issues or have a civil society angle.

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#### CIVIL SOCIETY NEWS

##### Uzbekistan: Rights Defender Attacked, Threatened

Source: Human Rights Watch

Uzbek authorities should promptly investigate the violent attack against Elena Urlaeva, a prominent human rights defender, on 15 April, 2009, and bring to justice those responsible, Human Rights Watch said today. Two unidentified assailants assaulted and threatened Urlaeva, 52, a member of the Human Rights Alliance of Uzbekistan, outside her apartment building in Tashkent. *For details, [click here](#).*

##### Global Action Week on Education – The Big Read

Source: Global Campaign for Education

10 million people are expected to take part in The Big Read, to demand urgent action for the one in four women who are illiterate. Nelson Mandela, Natalie Portman, Desmond Tutu and Alice Walker and others have contributed stories to The Big Read - a book aimed at challenging the global education crisis. *For details, [click here](#).*



##### Uzbekistan: Defender of nature Makset Kosbergenov released from custody in the courtroom

Source: Ferghana.ru Information Agency

It was the last sitting of the court in the case Makseta Kosbergenova, on which Ferghana.Ru wrote a number of occasions. The Supreme Court of Karakalpakstan on Criminal Cases prosecution failed to prove the facts of giving and receiving bribes in large amounts. Disgraced chief Amudaryya Water Inspectorate and its subordinate Aytmurata Halmuratova were released from custody right in the courtroom.

M. Kosbergenovu faced the risk of imprisonment from 10 to 15 years. However, the public prosecutor failed to provide convincing evidence of his guilt. Nevertheless, the prosecutor was able to punish the environmentalist. As a source in Nukus reported to "Ferghana.Ru" today, according to a court sentence, "for abuse of power", Makset Kosbergenov would have to pay an administrative fine of 600

CIVICUS channel on YouTube:  
'Time 2 Act' Go to YouTube, [click here](#).



**CIVICUS launches its 1 for 1 membership campaign**

Are you one of the missing 85?

One CIVICUS member for every UN member state, that's the goal of CIVICUS' 1 for 1 Membership campaign, [click here](#).

minimum salaries - 16 mln.240 thousand soums (at the official exchange rate - USD 11,683) . The prosecutor did not refuse, and other charges - for accepting bribes in kind, for that Nukus ecologist would pay the state more than 300 thousand soums.

The lawyer accused the former and Makset Kosbergenov categorically disagrees with the sentence, and we intend to seek full justification. "Fergana.Ru" will continue to monitor the progress of the process now - hearing of the appeal.

*For more background on the case, [click here](#).*

*For the original article in Russian, [click here](#).*

### **Civil society perspectives on the Financing for Development agenda**

Source: Social Watch

The UN Economic and Social Council held a panel discussion on "Civil Society Perspectives on the Financing for Development Agenda" in April 2009, in the ECOSOC Chamber in New York. The panel discussion was held in preparation for the ECOSOC Special high-level meeting with the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to be held in New York. The first panel focused on "Addressing the impact of the global financial and economic crisis on development, including issues related to the international financial and monetary architecture and global governance structures." Panellists included Roberto Bissio, Director of Social Watch; Jo Marie Griesgraber, Executive Director of New Rules of the Global Finance Coalition and Marina Durano, Senior Policy Researcher of Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN). *For details, [click here](#).*

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### **GET INVOLVED!**

#### **The CIVICUS Civil Society Index Blog is now online!**

Keep abreast of recent activities within the CSI team and program. Visit <http://civilsocietyindex.wordpress.com> and share the link with your colleagues, networks and stakeholders. This new blog will provide CSI partners as well as interested parties all over the world a more informal and interactive way of giving and getting updates during this implementation phase, and will serve as a hub of information for you to disseminate, access and interact with throughout the project. *For details, [click here](#).*

#### **"On-call" Scientists: AAAS Science and Human Rights Program**

Source: AAAS - Advancing Science, Serving Society

Launched in October 2008, "On-call" Scientists connects scientists interested in volunteering their skills and knowledge with human rights organisations that are in need of scientific expertise. Scientists have much to contribute to the work being undertaken by human rights organisations and national human rights institutions throughout the world. "On-call" Scientists was created to facilitate such contributions. Through "On-call" Scientists, human rights organisations gain access to vital technical assistance to enhance their work and scientists have the opportunity to contribute to and gain a better understanding of human rights. *For details, [click here](#).*

#### **How does AWID's information support your work in advancing women's rights worldwide? Reply by 30 April!**

With their Women's Rights Information initiative, AWID has been working to build understanding of the trends affecting women's rights globally, put new issues on the agenda of women's movements internationally and highlight traditionally marginalised women's voices and perspectives. We hope that you will be a part of this initiative by participating in AWID's new survey. With this survey, AWID will be assessing how effective they are being in providing information that supports your work in advancing women's rights around the world. We request you to take just a few minutes to complete this survey by [clicking here](#).

[Read more...](#)

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## GLOBAL INSTITUTIONS UPDATE

### **G20: New Solutions, Problems Remain**

By Aldo Caliari, Director of Rethinking Bretton Woods Project

The Group of 20 countries (G20) met in London where the summit continued the process announced in Washington in November 2008 when George Bush, the former US president, summoned the same group of leaders to a meeting to discuss coordinated response to the global financial crisis. "This is the day the world came together to fight recession," said Mr. Gordon Brown, the UK prime minister in his closing speech. In stark contrast to his words, the declaration emerged from the summit — "G20 Declaration" — rather stands as evidence that the world is increasingly finding it harder to achieve common ground on the most critical matters that need international cooperation during these difficult times. In spite of assertions by participating officials — previous to the summit — that this was not a pledging conference, it sort of looked like one. *For details, [click here](#).*

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## PROFILES

### **M•A•C AIDS FUND DONOR: M•A•C AIDS Fund**

Established in 1994 by M•A•C Cosmetics, the M•A•C AIDS Fund supports men, women and children affected by HIV/AIDS globally. The M•A•C AIDS Fund (MAF) has remained deeply committed to supporting diverse organisations around the world that are providing vital services to people living with and affected by HIV and AIDS. The foundation's goal is to use the resources to improve the lives of people affected by HIV and AIDS by strengthening prevention programs and direct services. M•A•C Cosmetics has provided over USD 135 million to date for the M•A•C AIDS Fund. *For details, [click here](#).*

[Read more profiles...](#)

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## CLIMATE JUSTICE

### **UN Secretary-General proposes New Multilateralism to address climate change**

Source: IISD Reporting Services

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon spoke at a colloquium at Princeton University, US, on "The Imperative for a New Multilateralism," in which he proposed focusing on securing global public goods, including global financial and economic stability, a major push against poverty, restoring peace and stability, addressing climate change, advancing global health, countering terrorism, and ensuring disarmament and non-proliferation. *For details, [click here](#).*

### **Native traditions can fight climate change**

Source: By Deborah Zabarenko, Environment Correspondent, Reuters

Alaskan Inuits, Australian Aborigines and Pygmies from Cameroon have a message for a warming world: Native traditions can be a potent weapon against climate change. At a summit starting Monday in Anchorage, Alaska, some 400 indigenous people from 80 nations are gathering to hone this message in the hope that it can be a key part of international climate negotiations. *For details, [click here](#).*

[Read more...](#)

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## **BOOKS, REPORTS & RESOURCES**

### **New ITUC Report on Core Labour Standards in Mozambique**

Source: International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)

A new report by the ITUC on core labour standards in Mozambique, which coincides with the World Trade Organisation's (WTO) review of its trade policies, has found serious violations of trade union rights including in Mozambique's export processing zone in Mocal. *For details, [click here](#).*

### **Transforming the world in crisis: Prague NGO declaration**

Source: Prague Global Policy Institute - Glopolis

Civil society groups from around the world gathered at The World in Crisis conference on 1 April 2009 launched a declaration that calls on international governments and institutions to take urgent steps to address the bankrupt economic paradigm that has resulted in the current economic crisis. The declaration, conceived at The World In Crisis: Economies and Policies for Global Transformation conference in Prague, lays out a set of "crisis steps" for world leaders gathered at the G20 summit in London. *For details, [click here](#).*

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## **WORKSHOPS AND COURSES**

### **Global: Development and inequality in the global South**

Brown International Advanced Research Institute, 31 May - 13 June 2009

The Brown Summer Institute on Development and Inequality will bring together a group of young scholars, mainly from the Global South, for a two-week workshop. The workshop will focus on sharing knowledge about cutting-edge interdisciplinary research on inequality in developing countries and about methodologies for studying inequality. Emphasis will be placed on the differences in the definitions of inequality (and therefore need for distinct methods and approaches) across regions of the global South. *For details, [click here](#).*

### **Swisspeace - KOFF Trainings 2009**

Bern, 11-12 June 2009

To what extent does peace building work contribute to sustainable processes and structures of social change? How can efforts in peace building be planned in order to be most effective? And finally, how can success be defined and measured in this field of work? These questions will be put centre stage at the KOFF training on RPP. The main findings of the RPP Project initiated by the CDA Collaborative Learning Projects will be introduced, and participants will learn how to apply them to their own work. The training aims to offer practice-based food for thought and guidance for successful peace building. *For details, [click here](#).*

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## **CALL FOR PAPERS, SUBMISSIONS, SURVEYS & NOMINATIONS**

### **Call for nominations - John Humphrey Freedom Award 2009**

Deadline: 30 April 2009

Rights & Democracy (International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development) presents the John Humphrey Award each year to an organisation or individual from any region of the world, including Canada, for outstanding achievement in the promotion of human rights and democratic

development. The Award consists of a grant of USD 30,000, and a speaking tour of Canadian cities to help increase awareness of the recipient's human rights work. It is named in honour of the late John Peters Humphrey, the Canadian human rights law professor who prepared the first draft of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. *For details, [click here](#).*

[Read more...](#)

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### **APPOINTMENTS**

This week, new civil society job openings have been added to the CIVICUS website. Please [click here](#).

Should you wish to publish a **New Vacancy**, please click on [Add job](#). Please add an expiry date for applications.

### **JOBS OF THE WEEK**

#### **Civil Society Index Programme Officer**

Application Deadline: 08 May 2009  
CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation  
Location: Johannesburg, South Africa  
*For details, [click here](#).*

#### **Civil Society Watch Programme Officer**

Application Deadline: 08 May 2009  
CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation  
Location: Johannesburg, South Africa  
*For details, [click here](#).*

#### **Civil Society Watch Programme Manager**

Application Deadline: 08 May 2009  
CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation  
Location: Johannesburg, South Africa  
*For details, [click here](#).*

#### **Researcher**

Application Deadline: 30 April 2009  
Human Rights Watch, Women's Rights Division  
Location: Johannesburg, South Africa  
*For details, [click here](#).*

#### **Coordinator, Development & Communications**

Application Deadline: 30 April 2009  
GEMS of Hope  
Location: Toronto, Canada  
*For details, [click here](#).*

#### **Caucasus Programme Director**

Application Deadline: 30 April 2009  
Conciliation Resources (CR)  
Location: London, UK  
*For details, [click here](#).*

**The world's largest anti poverty alliance, the Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP), is**

**seeking to recruit three full-time positions at its Global Secretariat.**

**GCAP Campaign Director**

*For details, [click here](#).*

**GCAP Global Secretariat Assistant**

*For details, [click here](#).*

These unique and challenging roles require dynamism and the flexibility to work within a diverse global anti-poverty alliance. The successful candidates can be located anywhere that enables them to work in multiple time zones using Skype, e mail and telephone to stay in touch.

See [www.whiteband.org/about-gcap/jobs](http://www.whiteband.org/about-gcap/jobs) for full job descriptions. Interested candidates should send their CV and a covering note describing their suitability for the position to: [rajiv@whiteband.org](mailto:rajiv@whiteband.org)

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e-CIVICUS is a free weekly online publication keeping tens of thousands of people, organisations and programmes informed of the many developments and factors that affect civil society and their impact on creating a more just world.

We value your comments and suggestions. Please send these to the Editorial Team at [editor@civicus.org](mailto:editor@civicus.org).

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