



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.

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CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation

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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. 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,

The UN summit this June provides unique opportunity

The United Nations, with all its shortfalls and limitations, remains the ultimate repository of universal legitimacy, where the poorer member states have a place at the table, albeit in the periphery. It is convening a three-day summit of world leaders from 24 to 26 June 2009 at its New York Headquarters to assess the worst global economic downturn since the Great Depression. CIVICUS feels that this is an important opportunity for all members states to bring forward their concerns and to find real solutions. We are deeply concerned about the fact that powerful member states are expressing their disfavour of the UN process over the G20 in the current Draft Outcome Document negotiations. There's a wide perception among civil society and concerned citizens that the most influential members of the G20 are refusing to recognise the UN as the proper forum, and that the very foundation of democracy, respect for the Rule of Law, is at risk.

We urge, and expect governments, and particularly the highly industrialised countries, to participate in the UN Summit at the highest level, and to strive in good faith and a spirit of cooperation for a regenerated economic and social system of global governance that places human rights at its core; a system that is truly democratic, inclusive, transparent and participatory, and fully accountable to all member states and the people they represent.

For more information, please visit our website [here](http://www.civicus.org).

With gratitude, faith and solidarity,

Ingrid Srinath

CIVICUS's sweet 16!

We would like to continue hearing from all our Members, partners and interested stakeholders about your experiences of CIVICUS over the past 16 years. We invite you to share with us your personal/organisational experiences with CIVICUS, and/or provide suggestions for us to better serve you in the next 16 years, and beyond. Your opinions and input may be published in an upcoming issue of e-CIVICUS as with the opinions below, or on our website (www.civicus.org).



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

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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.

Please write to membership@civicus.org with your reflections, memories, contributions, suggestions or opinions. We look forward to hearing from you!

Here are some reflections and comments from staff and Members which we have received so far:



Jessica Hume
CIVICUS Communications Officer

Having gotten involved with CIVICUS for the first time as an intern in 2005 when it was only 12 years old, I have known CIVICUS through its teenage years. CIVICUS has had the grand dreams, goals, and ambitions that are often held by teenagers and which have at times seemed unattainable. But when teenagers get closer to becoming adults, their plans become more refined, their goals more specific and their paths ever clearer, and this is definitely the case with CIVICUS. With the adoption of its 2009-2012 strategic directions, CIVICUS path has been clearly defined. While its goals are no less lofty than they were four years ago, the steps that need to be taken towards achieving those goals are ever clearer. The result is an organisation that is becoming more mature, more confident and more sure of where it currently is and where it wants to be. CIVICUS is definitely not done growing up, but it has come a long way in the 4 years and indeed over the last 16. As it gets closer to coming of age, one can only look for this process to continue.

Dear *Friends and colleagues*,

It is a big pleasure for us to hear about 16th anniversary of CIVICUS. We UMCA/RPA are congratulating CIVICUS for this special moment. Please forward my best wishes to the founder and all staff of the CIVICUS.

With best wishes and regards,

Abdul Wali Babakarkhil

Director, United Medical Center for Afghans Rehabilitation Program for Afghanistan (UMCA/RPA)

[Read more contributions...](#)

CIVICUS Poll Question

This week's question:

Participation of all member states at the [UN Conference on the Economic Crisis](#) this month is

- Imperative
- Preferable
- I haven't heard about this summit!

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

Previous question: At 16, which of CIVICUS' three Strategic Directions is the most important?

- Protect rights of civil society actors
- Strengthen good practice within civil society

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



CIVICUS' 1 for 1
membership campaign

Are you one of the
missing 86?

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

- c. Strengthen civil society's ability to influence policies & practices of Govts/Int institutions/Pvt sector
- d. All of these!

Results: a. - 40%, b. - 40%, c. - 10%, d - 10%

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 Watch our videos on <http://www.youtube.com/user/civicusworldalliance>

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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.

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CIVIL SOCIETY NEWS

Dear NGOs,

It is with great sorrow that the NGO Relations of DPI has learned from the International Action Network on Small Arms that three members of the global movement against gun violence were on the Air France flight that went missing on 1 June while flying from Brazil to France. Husband and wife Dr Pablo Dreyfus and Ana Carolina Rodrigues were among the 228 passengers presumed to have died. Pablo was the Manager of Research at Viva Rio in Rio de Janeiro. Ana Carolina also worked at Viva Rio, coordinating the Children in Organised Armed Violence project. Dr. Ronald Dreyer, a Swiss diplomat, was also on the plane. He was the coordinator of the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence.

On behalf of the DPI NGO community we send our deepest condolences to their families, friends and colleagues.

Yours Sincerely,

NGO Relations, DPI

United Nations

www.un.org/dpi/ngosection

Russian human rights activist seeks asylum in Finland

Source: Mosnews.com

Yelena Maglevannaya, a Russian journalist working for the Volgograd-based newspaper Svobodnoe Slovo (Free Speech), has applied for political asylum in Finland, Russian website Lenta.ru reports, quoting Sergei Knyazkin, the Chairman of Committee for Protection of Human Rights in Tatarstan. *For details, [click here](#).*



The Shame of Swat

Source: Head Down Eyes Closed - Blog

One of the biggest exoduses of modern times is under way in Pakistan. Two and a half million people have been displaced - a dozen times the population of Geneva, and yet we hear relatively little about their plight in this "little Switzerland". That might be changing, with major humanitarian organisations finally mobilising. *For details, [click here](#).*

CWGL announces 2009 Theme for 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence Campaign

Source: Center for Women's Global Leadership (CWGL)

In celebration of the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) during last year's 16 Days Campaign, millions of people pledged their support for ending violence against women (VAW) and upholding human rights. Building upon this momentum, the Center for Women's Global Leadership (CWGL) dedicates the 2009 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence Campaign to honoring groups and individuals who have committed to bringing VAW to the forefront of global attention, to encouraging everyone in their various capacities to take action to end VAW, and to demanding accountability for all of the promises made to eliminate VAW. The 2009 theme is: Commit - Act - Demand: We CAN End Violence Against Women! *For details, [click here](#).*

Conditions for civil dialogue in Belarus

By Cyril Ritchie, Conference Rapporteur for Belarus

A statement by Cyril Ritchie to the REACT/ALDA Conference in Bruxelles (at the European Economic and Social Committee) on the theme: "The Millennium Development Goals in Belarus, The role of initiatives from civil society and local authorities to promote a more equitable, open and democratic society". *For details, [click here](#).*

GET INVOLVED!

Sign on: Peoples' Statement on the Global Crisis

Source: Institute for Political Economy

The People's Statement on the Global Crisis is initiated by RESIST! and the Asia Pacific Research Network (APRN). RESIST! is an international campaign against neoliberal globalisation and war. The APRN is a regional network formed in 1998 to develop cooperation among alternative research centers of NGOs, and social movements in the Asia-Pacific region and raise capacity in advocacy and education, particularly in the conduct of research, education, information and advocacy related activities. Read the statement, analysing the roots and character of the current crisis, as well as critical measures that must be adopted to provide relief and alleviate the people's situation. You can also sign on, [click here](#).

[Read more...](#)

GLOBAL INSTITUTIONS UPDATE



UN accused of downplaying civilian death toll in Sri Lanka

Source: NowPublic - Crowded Powered media

With the UN already under fire for withholding and downplaying the number of civilian casualties in Sri Lanka, another ongoing controversy has opened up concerning the number of internally displaced persons detained in the IDP camps in northern Sri Lanka. Between 27 May and 30 May reports of the UN's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, over 13,000 IDPs simply

disappeared from the camps. *For details, [click here](#).*

UN Issues Two Reports on World Economic Crisis

Source: United Nations - Non-Governmental Liaison Service (UN-NGLS)

Last week the UN issued two reports on the global economic crisis, placing a particular emphasis on the impact of the crisis on developing countries. Both reports conclude that the current global downturn will likely last for some time and that developing countries will be the hardest hit by its impacts. In the face of the crisis, the two reports recommend coordinated global fiscal stimulus and reform. Both reports also serve as important inputs to the UN Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and its Impact on Development (24-26 June 2009, New York). *For details, [click here](#).*

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PROFILES



DONOR: Merrill Lynch

Merrill Lynch is a global company built on local relationships. This company believes that economic prosperity will be achieved through provision of opportunity and fundamental skills to the people in underserved communities around the world gain access to education opportunities that lead to wealth creation. Major programmatic areas include: Merrill Lynch investing Pay off, Young entrepreneurs, Pacesetter schools, Global Ambassadors. *For details, [click here](#).*

MEMBER: The East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project (EHAHRDP)

The East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project (EHAHRDP) was established in 2005 to strengthen the work of human rights defenders (HRDs) by reducing their vulnerability to the risk of persecution and by enhancing their capacity to effectively defend human rights. Its work focuses on Burundi, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia and Somaliland, Sudan including Southern Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda. It is the Secretariat of 65 member organisations from throughout the region. *For details, [click here](#).*

[Read more profiles...](#)

BOOKS, REPORTS & RESOURCES

Global Economic Governance Reform and the UN: Proposals and Analysis From Civil Society
By Asch Harwood, Mariluz Lopez, William Post, Bradley Seelig, Christian Sempere and Jon Wallach, Graduate Program in International Affairs, The New School,

Concern about global economic governance comes in waves. It was an issue in the mid-1990s when the Bretton Woods institutions celebrated their half-century birthdays to choruses of activists chanting "Fifty Years is Enough," owing to dissatisfaction with "structural adjustment" programs and the inadequate attention paid to social service needs, especially in the poorest countries. It was at this time as well that the WTO was born, a potentially powerful forum for negotiating multilateral agreements to liberalise international trade, monitor that countries did not violate their obligations and enforce discipline. And yet, WTO decided not to become a "specialised agency" of the UN, unlike the IMF and World Bank and most of the major international agencies when they were created. *For details, [click here](#).*

Submission to World Financial and Economic Crisis and its Impact on Development

By Christoforos Pavlakis, Youth 2.0, Greece

The world we live in is an interconnected organism. Forces of globalisation are making this ancient concept clearer and clearer. Yet, this world we live in is also one of disparity. Different groups of people, bearing in mind a sharp distinction between us and the other, push for their own advancement as if it were a heavenly mandate. Even while economic growth achieved remarkable improvements in living standards for the prosperous, extreme poverty still "ravages the lives of one person in four for the developing world." *For details, [click here](#).*

CONFERENCES & EVENTS



UN Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development

24 - 26 June 2009, New York

The UN is convening a three-day summit of world leaders from 24 to 26 June 2009 at its New York Headquarters to assess the worst global economic downturn since the Great Depression. The aim is to identify emergency and long-term responses to mitigate the impact of the crisis, especially on vulnerable populations, and initiate a needed dialogue on the transformation of the international financial architecture, taking into account the needs and concerns of all Member States. *For details, [click here](#).*

CEV General Assembly Conference: An Enabling Volunteering Infrastructure in Europe

14 - 16 October 2009, Malmö

CEV's Autumn General Assembly conference entitled "An enabling volunteering infrastructure in Europe: Situation – Trends – Outlook" will be hosted by the CEV member organisation in Sweden, the [Forum för Frivilligt Socialt Arbete](#). During this event, we will assess the current state of play of the volunteering infrastructure in the countries of Europe and set up a roadmap towards the European Year of Volunteering 2011 and beyond. *For details, [click here](#).*

CALL FOR PAPERS, SUBMISSIONS, SURVEYS & NOMINATIONS

The Sheila McKechnie Awards 2009

Source: The Sheila McKechnie Foundation

The Young Activist Award supports young campaigners, aged 16-24, who are campaigning or want to campaign on a community focused issue with which they have a personal connection and/or feel strongly about. It is targeted at young people supported by The Foyer Federation, YMCA and similar organisations, who have limited experience of campaigning but who have the drive and passion to change something in their community. If you are aged 16-24 and live anywhere in the UK you can apply for our Young Activist Award. Download an application, read the guidance, fill in the form, and email or post it back to Ruby. The application deadline is Tuesday 30th June 2009. You are welcome to send in additional materials in support of your application, and details are given the guidance notes. *For details, [click here](#).*

[Read more...](#)

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

Web and New Media Editor

Application Deadline: 15 June 2009

CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation

Location: Johannesburg, South Africa

For details, [click here](#).

Senior Programme Coordinator Global Advocacy and Legal Advice Centres Programme

Application Deadline: 15 June 2009

Transparency International

Location: TI Secretariat, Berlin, Germany

For details, [click here](#).

CONTACT e-CIVICUS

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.

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