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Poll question

This week's question: How do you like the new look of e-CIVICUS?

- a. Really cool!
- b. It's an improvement!
- c. Try a bit harder!
- d. Funny!

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

Previous question: Readers' recommendations for e-CIVICUS:

- a. It should be shorter
- b. It can improve its look
- c. Its content needs to be more focussed
- d. It need not be a weekly
- e. It's fine the way it is!

Results: a. - 17.9%, b. - 21.4%, c. - 25%, d - 7.1%, e - 28.6%

Get involved

A Petition to President Obama
Source: United for Peace & Justice

Nuclear Disarmament should serve as the leading edge of a global trend towards demilitarisation and redirection of resources to meet human needs and restore the environment. To do this, UFPJ's Nuclear Disarmament/Redefining Security Working Group and its allies have launched a petition calling on President Obama to initiate negotiations for the abolition of nuclear weapons during our lifetimes. You can be part of the growing international campaign to abolish nuclear weapons by signing this petition. For details, [click here](#).

Turn words into action
Source: Save Darfur

More than two months ago, President Obama reminded us of his commitment and obligation to end the atrocities in Darfur. Since then, we've been anxiously waiting to see his plan for peace. The Obama administration now appears close to finalising their plan, but much depends on when and how it is released. President Obama must



From the Desk of the Secretary General

Launch of CIVICUS 2008 Annual Report

Was 2008 a year of transformation at CIVICUS? It was certainly the start of a transformation. After a decade at its helm, Kumi Naidoo moved on (he'll join Greenpeace in a few months). But it wasn't just the person in the Secretary General's office that changed at CIVICUS.

2008 marked a year of reflection with a view to moving ahead with even more clarity and energy. At the 2008 World Assembly in Glasgow, Scotland, CIVICUS adopted its new Strategic Directions to guide its operations over the next five years. This provided the framework for a more detailed Operational Plan (2008-2012) with an Impact, Planning and Learning Framework to follow.

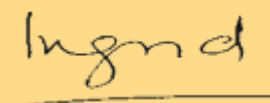
The financial and economic meltdown posed new and greater challenges. CIVICUS and civil society had to dig deep in 2008 to meet growing demands despite constrained resources. Yet at the heart of the crisis was the unprecedented opportunity to achieve greater coherence and progress in re-imagining the world based on principles of equity, justice and democratic governance.

Our annual report attempts to capture the highlights of 2008. Translations into languages other than English are underway and will be posted on the website soon.

We look forward to your feedback. Please tell us about what you think about how we fared in 2008, your views on how we could improve our annual report and what you expect from us in the years to come. (Email editor@civicus.org.)

To read the annual report, [click here](#).

With faith, gratitude and solidarity,



News in brief

Iraq's Maliki seeks tighter media grip
Source: The Wall Street Journal

BAGHDAD -- Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki has proposed a series of laws that lawmakers, Western officials and nongovernmental organisations say could curb democratic freedoms in Iraq. If successful, the push would tighten government control over political parties, NGOs and the media, aiding Mr. Maliki's efforts to centralise authority over the country as the U.S. role in Iraq dwindles. For details, [click here](#).

Human rights activist abducted in Chechnya
Source: Google News

Armed men abducted the leader of a human rights group and her husband in the troubled Russian republic of Chechnya, leading members of two other groups said. "Today, towards two o'clock, unidentified armed men got into the offices of Let's Save the Generation and abducted its leader, Zarema Sadulayeva, and her husband," said Alexander Cherkasov of Memorial, the Interfax news agency and Moscow Echo Radio reported on Monday. For details, [click here](#).

Forced labour of students – creativity factor

personally announce his plan, and clearly state his commitment to that plan as a national priority. You can help us tell President Obama to personally roll out his plan. For details, [click here](#).

We Welcome Contributions

e-CIVICUS is 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. To read the contribution guidelines, [click here](#).

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Events

2009 Commonwealth People's Forum 22 - 26 November 2009

Registration is now open for the largest gathering of people's organisations on the Commonwealth calendar. The 2009 Commonwealth People's Forum (CPF) will take place at the Cascadia Hotel in Trinidad and Tobago from 22 - 26 November, 2009. The Forum is organised by the Commonwealth Foundation and hosted by the Government and people of Trinidad and Tobago. It's open to anyone and any organisation that wants to be heard by their political leaders and share their ideas with others across national or regional borders. To register, [click here](#). For more details, [click here](#).

10th International Conference of Chief Justices of the World - Global Symposium 11 - 14 December 2009, Lucknow, India

The Global Symposium is an annual event that has developed a world wide movement through a global partnership with civil society and educational organisations to establish sustainable development, world unity and world peace. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity for many to be proximate with some amazing people, aside from being able to help directly address major issues confronting the world today. For details, [click here](#).

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Check out our video channel:
<http://www.youtube.com/user/civicusworldalliance>

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](#)

Source: "Veritas" Youth Human Rights Movement of Uzbekistan

The major organisation responsible for supporting and protection of the interests of youth in Uzbekistan is "Kamolot" Youth Public Movement (created on the initiative of the President of Uzbekistan in 1997). Under the initiative of this organisation a project named "Student labour squads "Bunyodkor" ("Creator" in English) was launched in 2007 which "...aims at providing for employment of youth in useful labour activity during leisure time, social protection of youth and its material support". For details, [click here](#).

Kadyrov says slain activist lacked conscience

Source: *The Moscow Times*

Chechen President Ramzan Kadyrov on Saturday criticised the work of a Chechen human rights activist killed last month, saying she did not have "honour, dignity or a conscience." Natalya Estemirova, a prominent activist for Memorial who documented abductions and murders in the North Caucasus, was snatched off a Grozny street last month and found dead hours later along an Ingush highway. For details, [click here](#).

Bangladesh: The modern face of slavery

Source: *IRIN News*

Tens of thousands of people are working as bonded labourers in rural Bangladesh, say activists. Even though it is illegal, entire families, including children, are bonded to their employers while they struggle to pay back loans. "Thousands of children are being forced into bonded labour every day because of poverty and their parents' unemployment," Sumaiya Khair, a human rights activist and researcher into child labour in Dhaka, the capital, told IRIN. For details, [click here](#).

House arrest may be over for Zouari

Source: *IFEX - International Freedom of Expression eXchange*

Reporters Without Borders is relieved to learn that the Tunisian authorities lifted their supervision of journalist Abdallah Zouari on 2 August 2009, ending seven years of house arrest and a total of 18 years of police and judicial persecution. The police surveillance order was lifted on 2 August 2009, three days before it was officially due to end. Several local newspapers had prematurely reported this on 31 July. For details, [click here](#).

Human Rights Council Advisory Committee concludes discussion on draft declaration on human rights education and training

Source: *Human Rights Education Associates (HREA)*

The Human Rights Council Advisory Committee this morning adopted five recommendations to the Human Rights Council on draft principles and guidelines in the formulation and implementation of policies and measures for persons affected by leprosy and their family members; on human rights education and training; on discrimination in the context of the right to food; on missing persons; and on the right of peoples to peace. For details, [click here](#).

For more news stories, [click here](#)



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](#).

CIVICUS Member profile

Samuhik Abhiyan (SA)

Samuhik Abhiyan (SA) was established in 1992 focusing on capacity building of local NGO/CBOs in Nepal, building the capacity of government officials to establish participatory planning & monitoring mechanisms and the development of competent, committed & experienced human resources. Their mission is to strengthen the abilities and opportunities of civil society, private and government organisations through enhancing good governance, managing resources and undertaking activities for self-development and self-reliance and to enhance the capacity of civil society organisations in promoting the cause of social justice.

They conduct their work in partnerships and collaboration and by ensuring gender and social inclusion in their work throughout Nepal. Some of their achievements are that there are more than 5000 local NGOs/CBOs and more than 200 Saving & Credit Cooperative Organisations, more than 700 Community Forest Users Committees have been established as reputable organisations at district as well as national level. 15 District Development Committees and over 100 Village Development Committees have adopted People Centred Development methods and tools of Participatory Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation. 75 women development officers have been trained on gender sensitive planning and gender auditing. For details, [click here](#).

Resources

ICTD - Is it a new species of development?

By Anita Gurumurthy and Parminder Jeet Singh

[job](#). Please add an expiry date for applications.

Director of Operations

Application Deadline: 11 September 2009

CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation

Location: Johannesburg, South Africa

For details, [click here](#).

Every Human Has Rights (EHHR) Campaign Officer

Application Deadline: 14 August 2009

CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation

Location: Johannesburg, South Africa

For details, [click here](#).

Regional Director, East Africa

Application Deadline: 7 September 2009

The ELMA Philanthropies Services (U.S.) Inc.

Location: Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

For details, [click here](#).

In the not so distant past, when either-or debates about information and communications technologies (ICTs) were doing the rounds, a typical phrase would be – “But email is no substitute for vaccines”! Thankfully, the field of ICTs and Development (ICTD) has moved from that juncture. The structural nature of what is a society-wide transformation, triggered by a new techno-social paradigm, makes it more and more evident that the core ICTD issue relates to the all important question of power; where the socially marginalised and disadvantaged groups are located in the new social configurations. A participant in a grassroots community video project for marginalised, poor women describes the power shift associated with ICTs succinctly – “But you cannot bribe videos; they tell honestly what our stories are”. For details, [click here](#).

20% discount on Alliance magazine subscriptions for e-CIVICUS readers!

Source: Alliance

Alliance is the leading magazine for philanthropy and social investment worldwide. It provides news and analysis of what’s happening in these sectors across the world. It also acts as a forum for the exchange of ideas and experiences among practitioners. As well as news and conference reports, articles, book reviews and opinion columns, each issue has a special in-depth feature on some key aspect of philanthropy and social investment, with contributors from around the world and expert guest editors. Alliance is pleased to offer a 20 per cent discount to all e-CIVICUS subscribers and members and partners of CIVICUS via The Funding Network’s website. Simply download this form and send it to them via email/fax/mail. To download the form, [click here](#).

Message Stick - UNPFII quarterly newsletter

Source: UN Permanent Forum of Indigenous Issues (UNPFII)

The Message Stick is a quarterly newsletter that highlights the efforts and activities of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. This issue covers the Eighth Session of the Permanent Forum. It also has short stories about the Forum’s mission to the Chaco region in Bolivia and Paraguay, the mid-term assessment of the Second Decade and other issues. To download this issue, [click here](#).

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