



A weekly e-newsletter for civil society from CIVICUS!

25 September 2009
Edition No: 457

In this issue

- [News in brief](#)
- [Get Involved](#)
- [Resources](#)
- [Events](#)
- [Opportunities](#)
- [Book Reviews](#)
- [Appointments](#)

Poll question

This week's question: What is the greatest potential risk of transparency for CSOs?

- Loss of competitive advantage
 - Loss of funding
 - Political harassment
 - Loss of credibility/legitimacy
 - Other
 - Transparency has only positive consequences
- To answer the question, [click here](#)

Previous question: Which level of governance should civil society place primary attention on in its efforts to promote greater democratisation?

- global
- regional
- national
- local
- equally all of the above

Results: a. - 10.5%, b. - 5.3%, c. - 5.3%, d. - 42.1%, e. - 36.8%

Get involved

aids2031 Civil Society Online Survey
Source: NGLS

"aids2031", is a "think tank" - a project hoping to shift the global response to HIV from a short-term, reactive, emergency response to building a long-term, proactive, strategic framework that would mitigate the consequences of the HIV epidemic. For details, [click here](#).

We Welcome Contributions

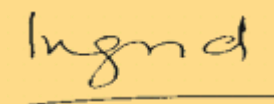
e-CIVICUS is a useful channel through which you and your organisation can share your news, publicise your events and articulate the issues you face. Please send us your contributions by Monday for publication in the coming week to editor@civicus.org. To read the contribution guidelines, [click here](#).

From the Desk of the Secretary General

CIVICUS has had the distinct pleasure of welcoming a number of our programme partners to Johannesburg this week. Partners from 12 of the 14 countries participating in our Civil Society Watch Early Warning System (CSW EWS) programme have focussed on streamlining the modus operandi of this vital mechanism that aims to track the build up of threats to civil society and develop early responses. Also here are 31 members the Affinity Group of National Associations.

For details, [click here](#).

With faith, gratitude and solidarity,




Launch of the CIVICUS CSI Indicator Database 2003-2006

The CIVICUS Civil Society Index (CSI) would like to announce the launch of the Civil Society Index 2003-2006 Indicator Database. The CSI Indicator Database was developed in order to ensure the availability of civil society data collected in the 2003-2006 phase in the CSI programme (<http://www.civicus.org/csi/phase-one>) to a global audience. To this end, the CSI Indicator Database is: easily- accessible online; searchable by country, dimension and individual indicator; available free of charge.

Please visit <http://civicus.org/csi-phase1/index.php> to access the database

You can contact the CSI team for more information (index@civicus.org), and watch eCIVICUS and the CSI blog (<http://civilsocietyindex.wordpress.com/>) for upcoming events and contests associated with this new online tool.

Photos from the "tchtck with CIVICUS" event on 21 September at 1pm in Johannesburg.
[Click here to view photos taken at our "tchtck with CIVICUS" event.](#)

News in brief

Africa climate change threatens life and health of Maasai women
Source: Women News Network (WNN)

The Maasai are struggling with frequent water shortages which are threatening their way of life. But one women's group is taking action. Day in and day out from the months of March through to June, grey and white clouds float across the blue skies above Kajiado, southern Kenya. But each passing day, the rain they promise frequently fails to show up. For details, [click here](#).

Saadabay uulu Nurak dies in Kyrgyzstan high school
Source: KCHR

For two years he was abused by older students and was constantly beaten, which resulted in his death according to his parents. According to available data, the conclusion of a medical examination shows that Saadabay uulu Nurak died of sarcoma of a knee. Everyone knows that in Kyrgyzstan medical experts are bought and sold. "We have no money for a good lawyer who would represent our interests in court and help us to achieve justice", says the father of the deceased student. For details, [click here](#).

From London to Pittsburgh: assessing G20 action for developing countries
Source: Eurodad

Just before the September 2009 European leaders meeting in Brussels and the Pittsburgh G20 summits, this briefing summarises the pledges made by G20 leaders on development, compares them to the latest assessments of need and examines implementation and likely outcomes. It makes recommendations for extra actions that leaders should agree this month. For details, [click here](#).

Planned 2010 elections not credible if opposition remains in prison
Source: Human Rights Watch

The content of e-CIVICUS may be translated into other languages and reproduced elsewhere, as long as due acknowledgment is made to CIVICUS.

DISCLAIMER: Although CIVICUS makes all reasonable efforts to obtain prima-facie reliable content for e-CIVICUS, CIVICUS cannot guarantee the accuracy of the reports, views or opinions of third parties

Events

Strengthening the triangle CSOs-National Governments-European Commission

19-20 October 2009, IMPACT Centre, Zadar, Croatia

European Citizen Action Service (ECAS) and the National Foundation for Civil Society Development (NFCSD) are glad to announce the international conference entitled "Strengthening the triangle CSOs-National Governments-European Commission". This event will take place in Zadar, Croatia on 19 and 20 October 2009. The event will gather representatives of civil society from the EU and neighbouring countries, donors active in the region as well as high officials from the EU institutions and national governments. For details, [click here](#).

Inyathelo Conference 2009

2 - 5 November 2009, Lagoon Beach Hotel, Milnerton, Cape Town

The future is uncertain. Arguably, no sector understands this uncertainty more clearly than civil society. In South Africa, as in the rest of the world, the events within the global economic and financial fora have rocked the foundations on which we had, until now, based our operations into the future. Register for panel discussions; plenary sessions; skillsXchanges; working groups; roundtable and networking opportunities; special events; and the opportunity to make a contribution to the future of South African civil society. For details, [click here](#).

Book Reviews

Visionaries In Our Midst: Ordinary People who are Changing our World

Source: Peace and Collaborative Development Network

"Visionaries In Our Midst: Ordinary People who are Changing our World" is Allison Silberberg's inspiring collection of essays that profile ordinary people who are changing our world. Silberberg shares the stories of individuals who identified critical needs in their communities and responded with courage and conviction. For details, [click here](#).

For more book reviews, [click here](#)

Letters to the Editor

When the world's economy disintegrated into unprecedented turmoil at the apex of President George Bush's era, many Ugandans viewed this as a thing of the Americans. In fact, government officials were quick to comfort the populace that indeed the country would not be affected.

Today however, almost every commodity in the country has had its price increased; and the obvious excuse is that the price of the U.S Dollar has gone up. It was after all not enough for the Finance Minister not to announce any tax increases because market dynamics were always going to demand price adjustments. From fuel to electricity, house rent to foodstuffs, school fees to bank interest rates, you name it, the cost has gone up... [read more](#).

Tumusiime Kabwende Deo

Find Us

facebook

[Become a CIVICUS Facebook fan and get updates on our](#)

Burma's military government has more than doubled the number of political prisoners in the past two years, including more than a hundred imprisoned in recent months, says a new Human Rights Watch report. Sentenced to long prison terms for their involvement in peaceful demonstrations in 2007, and for assisting civilians in the wake of the devastating Cyclone Nargis in 2008, the political prisoner population has reached more than 2,200. For details, [click here](#).

Over 8 months of 2009, 415 cases of suicide recorded in Kyrgyzstan

Source: KCHR

This was reported by the press office of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the KR. In its data, 276 suicides are men, 78 women and 61 minors. "Cases of suicide often occur in the Chui region of the republic, followed by the Issyk-Kul and Osh regions. The cause of suicide is often a social factor, insults to the relatives, family problems", noted the press service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. It is reported that 2009 has recorded 22 cases of suicides involving firearms and bladed weapons. "These facts are now under investigation" said the press service.

Afghanistan: No unreserved Taliban support for Peace Day

Source: IRIN News

Taliban insurgents have called the UN-initiated International Peace Day, 21 September, "a futile showy day" but said their fighters will be in a defensive position on the day. The UN and aid agencies have called on all warring parties in Afghanistan to respect a day of tranquillity on 21 September, which is also Eid-ul-Fitr, and allow aid workers to deliver essential supplies in insecure parts of the country. For details, [click here](#).

UN says climate change hurting African women

Source: VOA News

A UN official has told a regional conference in Togo that climate change in West Africa is disproportionately affecting women and girls. Human rights workers and senior government officials converged to discuss climate change this week in Togo. U.N. Development Fund for Women Regional Director Cecile Mukarubuga asked the 89 participants to consider the extraordinary challenges women are facing. For details, [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

The Economic Research Center

The Economic Research Center is a policy-research oriented non-profit think-tank with a mission to facilitate sustainable economic development and good governance in the New Public Management system of Azerbaijan. ERC is dedicated to strengthening participatory governance and overall economic growth. The mission of the ERC is to promote the provision of sustainable economic development and good governance. To realise this mission, the ERC is based on the following objectives: increasing the transparency and accountability of public funds, raising public awareness in the economic and business field of responsibilities, increasing the level of public involvement in decision-making on social public funds and to achieve a social dialogue. In order to reach these objectives, ERC implements a range of activities. All of these activities are reflected in various projects implemented by ERC. Since its establishment, the organisation has implemented more than 100 projects that cover economic, social, good governance, health and other fields of the country. Due to its fruitful activity, ERC has some electronic products: "Inflation calculator", "Municipality tax calculator", etc. ERC has many publications, among them: Annual report brochure in 2006, 2007, 2008; "From social assistance to rehabilitation" (book), "Arranging initial health care and financing" (3 books), "Targeted social assistance: justice, targeting, equality principles" (book), "Budget and education" (book), "Budget guide" (book), "Budget terms" glossary, "Three views of EITI implementation in Azerbaijan" (book), "Azerbaijan and World Trade Organisation" and many others. ERC is a member of networks such as PASOS, CIVICUS, PWYP, ENTO, IBP and EITI Secretariat in Oslo, Norway, etc. For more information, please visit www.erc-az.org.

Resources

South Africa's foreign engagement: Whither human rights?

Source: South African Institute for International Affairs

When South Africa began to negotiate a transition to democracy in the early 1990s, many local and international observers viewed this less as a case of the country extricating itself from a political and economic impasse than as a drama of moral redemption in which the entire world could share. South Africa, an International pariah state under apartheid, would be a beacon to the world if it could succeed under a democratic dispensation, and promote and protect human rights, both at home and abroad. For details, [click here](#).

Bali to Copenhagen: A monthly newsletter on climate change

Source: Sustainable Development Resource Center

The Climate negotiations have so far been understood as negotiations between developed and developing countries in identifying and addressing responses to global warming and climate change. Unfortunately, climate injustice affects the poorest countries which are most vulnerable and already suffering from its adverse effects. For details, [click here](#).

Worst of the worst: The world's most repressive societies 2009

Source: Freedom House

[activities in your news feed!](#)



Check out our video channel:

<http://www.youtube.com/user/civicsworldalliance>

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.

Global Coordinator - Civil Society Education

Application Deadline: 5 October 2009

Global Campaign for Education

Location: Johannesburg, South Africa

For details, [click here](#).

Program Manager, Civil Society

Application Deadline: Open Until Filled

Institute for Sustainable Communities

Location: Thailand

For details, [click here](#).

Freedom House has prepared this report as a companion to our annual survey on the state of global political rights and civil liberties, Freedom in the World. We are publishing this report to assist policymakers, human rights organisations, democracy advocates, and others who are working to advance freedom around the world. We also hope that the report will be useful to the work of the United Nations Human Rights Council. For details, [click here](#).

Opportunities

Feminist legal theory and practice training

Deadline: 4 October 2009

APWLD in collaboration with Fiji Women's Rights Movement (FWRM) is conducting a Pacific Feminist Legal Theory and Practice (FLTP) Training on 9-13 November 2009 in Nadi, Fiji. To download the application form, [click here](#).

IIE Scholar Rescue Fund: Fellowship announcement

Deadline: 12 October 2009

We are pleased to announce the IIE Scholar Rescue Fund (SRF) fellowships for threatened academics whose lives and work are in danger in their home countries. Professors, researchers and lecturers from any country or field may apply. We invite you to refer eligible candidates, and ask for your help in forwarding the announcement to any academic colleagues who may be interested. For details, [click here](#).

Sitaram Rao Livelihoods India case study competition

Source: Access

The "Sitaram Rao Livelihoods India Case Study Competition" is a competition which aims to document and disseminate motivating case studies in an attempt to increase awareness and knowledge on the livelihoods sector and making markets work for the poor. These case studies will also provide insights to the practitioners to help them improve models of livelihood interventions. The competition is dedicated to Mr. Sitaram Rao, mentor and guru of the Indian Microfinance and Livelihoods movement, who passed away recently. For details, [click here](#).

Social entrepreneurship in South Africa: Study tour

Source: UnLtd South Africa

South Africa is potentially the engine for social development for Southern Africa and the wider continent. There are amazing projects where creative individuals are addressing some of the big global issues facing society in enterprising ways, including such things as poverty, lack of livelihoods, health (including AIDS/HIV), education, environmental degradation and crime. For details, [click here](#).

Tell a friend

Would you like to share this newsletter with a friend? Please forward their e-mail address to subscriptions@civics.org.

Unsubscribe: To unsubscribe from e-CIVICUS, get a password reminder, or change your subscription options by entering your subscription email address: [Click here](#).

CONTACT US

EDITORS-IN-CHIEF	P.O. Box 933	1420K Street NW,
Devendra Tak	Southdale, 2135	Suite 900
Ingrid Srinath	South Africa	Washington D.C.
		20005 USA

EDITORS	Tel: +27 11 833 5959	Tel: +202 331-8518
Jessica Hume	Fax: +27 11 833 7997	Fax: +202 331-8774
Daniel Gray		
COPY EDITOR		
Margaret Fish		

www.civics.org