



A weekly e-newsletter for civil society from CIVICUS!

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Poll question

This week's question: The killing and harassment of protestors in Guinea this week urgently requires:

- an independent, impartial investigation by international experts
 - commitment by the military not to interfere with or contest elections
 - freedom of expression and assembly
 - all of the above
- To answer the question, [click here](#)

Previous question: How useful do you think the newly launched [CSI indicator database](#) will be for your work and research on civil society?

- Very useful
 - Somewhat useful
 - Not useful at all
- Results: a. - 75%, b. - 25%, c. - 0%**

Get involved

Stand Up, Take Action

CIVICUS encourages its members, partners and supporters to STAND UP against Poverty. Visit <http://standagainstpov.org/> for more information, resources and to register your event.

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@civics.org. To read the contribution guidelines, [click here](#).

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From the Desk of the Secretary General



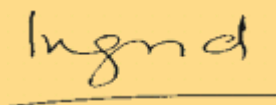
CIVICUS calls for Restoration of Democracy and Justice in Guinea

Military dictators can claim to speak on behalf of the people and to protect their rights, but they lack the legitimacy to back up these claims. Nowhere is this clearer than in Guinea where last month over 157 protestors were killed and approximately 1200 wounded during a pro-democracy protest. Women demonstrators were raped on the streets of the capital city Conakry by soldiers and many were sexually assaulted with guns. The protests were sparked by remarks made by Captain Moussa "Dadis", Camara – the leader of the military regime - that he may stand for the national presidential election scheduled in January 2010, reneging on a previous promise not to do so.

Although the government has announced the establishment of a commission of inquiry to investigate the events, civil society and the people of Guinea have little faith that an impartial investigation will be carried out given that Captain Camara holds all the levers of power and is in control of public institutions. It is now up to the United Nations, the African Union and the Economic Community of West African States to ensure that justice for the victims is not sacrificed at the altar of politics. Civil society – both national and international – has issued a set of demands to restore justice and democracy in Guinea which must figure in any political solutions to the crisis.

For more information, [click here](#).

With faith, gratitude and solidarity,



Stand Up and Take Action – October 16-18

By: Kumi Naidoo, CIVICUS Honorary President

October 16th – 18th are very important dates for the world and humankind. On these days millions of people are gathering globally to call for an end to poverty and inequality.

As the devastating effects of the financial crisis, global warming and increased food prices have begun to affect people of all ages and stations in life in all countries and with those already living in poverty the hardest hit, this year we hope to bring out even larger numbers than before and have a clear political impact.

To read more, [click here](#).

News in brief

Weapons Of Mass Desperation

Source: Tehelka

On 22 September 2009, India woke up to the news that the Delhi Police had captured a top Naxal ideologue, 58-year-old Kobad Ghandy – a South Bombay Parsi who had grown up in a giant sea-facing house in Worli, had gone to Doon School, and had studied for a CA in London before returning to India to work with the most destitute of Indian citizens in Maharashtra, before going underground in the 1970s. His wife Anuradha, a sociologist, went underground with him and died of cerebral malaria last year. (Malaria, particularly the lethal falciparum malaria, is a common affliction in the neglected heartland of central India.) Home Minister P Chidambaram called Ghandy the State's "most important Naxal catch." For details, [click here](#).

What does Iraq need now?

By: Hajeer Ameen

I behold this opportunity with much gratitude and appreciation. In a distinguished meeting like this I can sense that the main goal is to leverage consultations and interaction among our societies, build a mutual understanding of our problems and to listen to the silent language of our diversified cultures. To be honest I can hardly resist a strong and rather biased inclination to talk about my country. For details, [click here](#).

Human Rights Watch honours Daniel Bekele, Human Rights Activist

Source: All Africa.com

Addis Ababa — In the ever-shrinking space for freedom of expression and association in Ethiopia, Daniel Bekele has faced heavy-handed government repression as a prominent anti-poverty activist and human rights lawyer. Daniel has dedicated his life to building a vibrant civil society and strengthening human rights in a country where freedom of expression and other fundamental rights are severely restricted. For details, [click here](#).

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Events

CASE International conference: Global financial and macroeconomic crisis

20 - 21 November 2009, Falenty Centre, Warsaw, Poland

The theme of the CASE 2009 international conference is the global financial and macroeconomic crisis. The financial crisis of 2008-2009 has given rise to escalating debates regarding regulation and deregulation, moral hazard and efficient market hypotheses. Experts speculate whether global growth during the period 1989 to 2008 was the result of endogenous reforms, or simply loose monetary policy and massive speculative bubbles. For details, [click here](#).

Social Media for NGOs Conference

15-16 October 2009 (Johannesburg), 20-21 October 2009 (Cape Town)

The annual SANGONet "ICTs for Civil Society" Conference is the premier ICT event dedicated to the work of the NGO sector in Southern Africa. For details, [click here](#).

Human Rights and Their Limits

15 October 2009, Open Society Institute, New York

At this Open Society Institute event, Wiktor Osiatynski will discuss his book with OSI president Aryeh Neier. For details, [click here](#).

18th World Congress of Environmental Journalists

15 - 22 October 2009, Colombo, Sri Lanka

Educate to end climate poverty (Special Emphasis on the World Summit on Climate Change, December 2009). For details, [click here](#).

Book Reviews

Human Rights and Their Limits

Source: Open Society Institute

In Human Rights and Their Limits (Cambridge University Press), Wiktor Osiatynski examines how the concept of human rights has developed in waves: each call for rights serves the purpose of social groups that try to stop further proliferation of rights after their own goals are reached. For details, [click here](#).

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

Letters to the Editor

I am delighted to see the report from Barbara Schmiedl on the human rights work being undertaken in Graz. It demonstrates what appears to be a very effective approach for localising human rights. It could serve as a model to be adapted in other places. With this idea in mind, I must mention Understanding Human Rights: Manual on Human Rights Education, 2nd edition, edited by Wolfgang Benedek and published by Barbara's European Training and Research Centre in Graz. It is available online at: <http://www.etc-graz.at/typo3/index.php?id=712>. I have been using this manual to teach an online university course on human rights. It is an excellent resource, but it needs to be updated. I imagine that in the updating process, additions could be made to share the procedures being followed in Graz and, in time, other places as well.... [read more](#).

Aloha, George Kent

Professor George Kent
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Find Us

Two million slum children die every year as India booms

Source: Guardian.co.uk

India's growing status as an economic superpower is masking a failure to stem a shocking rate of infant deaths among its poorest people. Nearly two million children under five die every year in India – one every 15 seconds – the highest number anywhere in the world. More than half die in the month after birth and 400,000 in their first 24 hours. For details, [click here](#).

World Bank-IMF annual meetings 2009

Source: Bretton Woods Project

The Bank and the Fund have named this year's annual meetings, held in Istanbul, Turkey, the 'Road to Recovery.' People around the world struggling in the face of the huge increases in unemployment and poverty caused by what the UN has called the "greatest financial and economic crisis since the Great Depression" may not share this optimism. However, the International Financial Institutions (IFI's) themselves certainly seem to have put themselves back on the road to recovery, with a \$500 billion boost to the IMF's coffers from the G20 and the Bank announcing its highest lending ever. For details, [click here](#).

Somalia: US government to set new aid terms

Source: IRIN News

The US government is to put special conditions on its humanitarian grants for at least 13 aid agencies operating in Somalia. This could unlock millions of dollars in relief resources that had been on hold due to US anti-terrorism rules. A report by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) issued in August said delayed US funding was affecting food relief and other operations. For details, [click here](#).

Quality health care key to averting unnecessary deaths in childbirth, says Ban

Source: UN News

Investing in quality health care in poor countries can make a dramatic difference to the survival rates of the estimated 500,000 women worldwide who die each year while giving birth, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said in an address this evening spotlighting the need to support the work of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). "Pregnancy and childbirth are inherently dangerous," Mr. Ban told the Americans for UNFPA Gala for the Health and Dignity of Women, held in New York. "Even a woman with access to the best possible services has no guarantee of an easy delivery, free of complications. But she and her baby are much, much more likely to survive." 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 Caucasus Institute for Peace, Democracy and Development (CIPDD)

The Caucasus Institute for Peace, Democracy and Development was established in 1992 in Tbilisi, Georgia to spread liberal and democratic principles in the country. Their mission is to promote a democracy which is a process whereby citizens take responsibility for their political institutions rather than a new dogmatic ideology that the avant-garde of the society imposes upon their "backward" brethren. The Caucasus Institute is a catalyst of public discussion. They gain knowledge on public problems, propose their analysis, assessment and options for solutions, and broaden the circle of people who are willing and capable to debate public issues. CIPDD's main strategic priorities include public policy debate and development, supporting democratic civil institutions and civil integration. CIPDD seeks to contribute to the implementation of its goals through producing relevant public policy documents and encouraging a pluralistic and informed public policy debate in Georgia. CIPDD has a qualified and experienced team, and interesting programmes and publications. For more information, please visit www.cipdd.org.

Resources

Doing a decent job? IMF policies and decent work in times of crisis

Source: SOLIDAR, Eurodad & Global Network

In April 2009, the G20 group of leaders committed \$1.1 trillion to combat the financial crisis. Most of this finance - \$750 billion – is to be channelled through the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Boosting equitable growth, meeting the most urgent needs of the poor, and laying the foundations for a robust development which creates decent work and benefits the poorest sectors of society should be the main goals of the funding provided to counter the effects of the crisis. However this study raises strong doubts that IMF loans will have the intended positive effect on developing countries. For details, [click here](#).

Getting back on the rails (2009)

Source: Christian Aid

This report examines the different parts of the private sector and channels by which it can contribute to development. Developing country governments must be able to make the right policies, introduce the right regulations and build the right institutions to strengthen its contribution. For details, [click here](#).

Recovering from the crisis: A global jobs pact

Source: International Labour Organisation

The global economic crisis and its aftermath mean the world faces the prospect of a prolonged increase in unemployment, deepening poverty and inequality. Employment has usually only recovered several years after economic recovery. In some countries, the simple recovery of previous employment levels will

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You Tube

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

Project Accelerate G20 Coordinator

Application Deadline: 10 October 2009

Global Call to action Against Poverty (GCAP)

Location: Canada

For details, [click here](#).

Regional Director for Africa and the Middle East

Application Deadline: 15 October 2009

World YWCA

Location: Geneva, Switzerland

For details, [click here](#).

Director, Demand Dignity and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Programme

Application Deadline: 25 October 2009

Amnesty International

Location: Central London

For details, [click here](#).

Civil Society Advisory Committee Member

Application Deadline: 30 November 2009

Commonwealth Foundation

Location: International

For details, [click here](#).

not be enough to contribute effectively to strong economies and to achieve decent work for women and men. For details, [click here](#).

Opportunities

The Gates Award for Global Health

Deadline: 31 October 2009

In December 2000, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation announced the establishment of the International Gates Award for Global Health. The Gates Award has been established to recognise an organisation yearly that has made a major and lasting contribution to the field of global health. For details, [click here](#).

Call for Nominations: Macjannet prize for global citizenship

Source: The Talloires Network

The Talloires Network and the MacJannet Foundation are pleased to announce the second annual MacJannet Prize for Global Citizenship and call for nominations of exceptional student civic engagement programmes at Talloires Network member institutions. For details, [click here](#).

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