



# Weekly Special Report



Produced by the Public Affairs Section

## INSIDE

### Bush Reflects on the Progress He's Seen in Africa

By Merle D. Kellerhals, Jr.  
Staff Writer

Washington — President Bush says he has experienced a number of uplifting moments during his two-term presidency, but none more powerful than witnessing a new and more hopeful era dawning in Africa.



President George W. Bush waves as he acknowledges applause following his remarks Wednesday evening, Nov. 12, 2008, at the 2008 Bishop John T. Walker Memorial Dinner in Washington, D.C.

“Over the past eight years, it's been moving to watch courageous Africans root out corruption, and open up

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### Ethiopian Dairy Industry Generates Wealth, Improves Livelihoods



Milk collection workers at Asallah Dairy Co-op

By Phillip Kurata  
Staff Writer

Asallah, Ethiopia — Until two years ago, Ato Abebe scratched out a meager subsistence raising wheat and other cereals on a hectare of land in central Ethiopia, where he and his family went to bed with hunger pangs several months a year.

Today, Abebe, who lives near Asallah, 180 kilometers south of Addis Ababa, consistently makes nearly \$100 per month, lives in a new house and plans to expand his dairy business while teaching his neighbors about it.

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## Ethiopian Dairy Industry Generates Wealth, Improves Livelihoods . . .

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Abebe's turn of fortune came about in 2006, when he signed on as an apprentice dairy farmer under the tutelage of Land O'Lakes International Development, a division of the U.S. dairy company Land O'Lakes Inc. The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) funds the program with a \$5 million grant that expires in 2010.

"Before, from June to August, we did not have food to eat or seeds to plant for the next season," Abebe told [America.gov](http://America.gov).

The farmer stands outside his new one-room house with a rainproof metal roof, where he lives with his wife and three children. His former thatch-roof house now is inhabited by the source of his new wealth, a cow and a heifer. "Having a milk-producing cow is like having a steady salary," he said.

Abebe plans to acquire four more cows, through direct purchase or artificial insemination with foreign bull semen brought to Ethiopia by Land O'Lakes and another development group, World Wide Science.

The dairy business holds glowing prospects for this family. In the two years that the Asallah dairy project has been under way, milk prices have risen from roughly 20 cents to 50 cents per liter. The best cows in the area produce as much as 13 liters a day, and overall output is rising as crossbreeding with highly productive foreign dairy cattle takes effect.

In exchange for Land O'Lakes' tutoring, Abebe teaches other farmers in the area who want to emulate his success.

others to plant napier grass, also known as elephant grass. Napier contains high protein and resists drought with its deep roots.



*Abebe stands outside his former house, left, and his current home.*

"We want him to transfer our knowledge," said Asfaw Tolessa, Land O'Lakes dairy extension manager for Ethiopia. Abebe is one of 130 farmers in Ethiopia who have been selected by Land O'Lakes for the program. He, in turn, teaches another 50 farmers, 10 of whom are implementing new methods, according to Tolessa, who expects the number of dairy farmers to surge as local living standards rise.

The program is more complex than encouraging farmers to buy a dairy cow, then extract and sell the milk. To enable the industry to thrive in drought-stricken, exhausted land, Land O'Lakes has taught Abebe and

"Getting dairy farmers to use napier grass is one of Land O'Lakes' biggest successes," said Tolessa. "It can be harvested every three weeks, stored in airtight plastic bags and kept for years as animal fodder."

The Land O'Lakes manager is interested in extending the dairy production program to include farmers' wives. "[Ethiopian] women tend to be more attentive to caring for animals than men," Tolessa said.

"They also tend to have better social skills than men and are more effective as members of dairy co-ops. They are less likely to engage in private deals that benefit some

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## Bush Reflects on the Progress He's Seen in Africa . . .

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their economies, and invest in the prosperity of their people," Bush said at a November 12 charity dinner. "The United States stands with these leaders as partners and friends and allies in hope through the work of the Millennium Challenge Account."

The Millennium Challenge Account, created in 2003, seeks to reduce poverty by significantly increasing economic growth in recipient countries through a variety of targeted investments.

At the 2008 Bishop John T. Walker Memorial Dinner, Africare awarded its Distinguished Humanitarian Service Award to Bush for the work done for Africa by his administration and family as "a labor of love." The award and dinner are in memory of Bishop John T. Walker, the first African-American Episcopal

bishop of Washington and a long-time chairman of Africare's board.

The annual dinner is held to benefit Africare, a U.S.-based charity that works to improve the lives and livelihoods of Africans by addressing needs in food security, agriculture, health and HIV/AIDS.

"Bishop Walker understood that disease and poverty and injustice are great challenges — but he also knew that the people of Africa have the talent and ambition and resolve to overcome them," Bush said.

U.S. policy toward Africa has been one of partnership, not paternalism, because Americans believe in the potential of the African people, Bush said.

In February, Bush traveled to Africa with the first lady, and in Tanzania he signed a five-year, nearly \$700 million Millennium Challenge Com-

pact. Bush said President Jakaya Kikwete called the compact a source of pride — "making it possible for the people of Tanzania to chart a brighter future."

Bush emphasized that Kikwete said the compact made it possible for the Tanzanian people to chart their own future.

"It's uplifting to see people freed from hunger and thirst," Bush said.

More information on Africare (<http://www.africare.org/>) is available on the organization's Web site.

*(This is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://www.america.gov>)* ♦

## Ethiopian Dairy Industry Generates Wealth, Improves Livelihoods . . .

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co-op members more than others." He said that Land O'Lakes needs to proceed cautiously on this front because of rural traditions that define women's roles narrowly.

Encouraging dairy farming would have no lasting effect without consistent markets for milk. In fact, a Swedish development group tried supporting Ethiopian dairy farmers in the 1970s, but milk prices crashed after several years. Farmers got rid of their cows and went back to cereal production, which in turn was devastated by drought.

The USAID-Land O'Lakes program

has created a network of commercial sales outlets. In addition to milk, the co-op produces cream, butter and cottage cheese, which are processed to have longer shelf lives than milk. The co-op aspires to build a modern dairy-processing plant. USAID is working with Ethiopian banks to encourage them to finance it.

The Asallah Dairy Co-op, up the road from Abebe's farm, has seen its membership rise from 37 at its founding in 2006 to 90 today. At the outset, the daily milk collection of the co-op averaged almost 70 liters per day. Now the figure is tenfold greater — 700 liters a day.

The price of milk has more than doubled, while the cost of animal feed has fallen by half. Tolessa said given the government's work to build a market economy and improve nutrition, the Ethiopian dairy industry has a bright future.

"We are making a lot of milk and a lot of money. We are very happy and grateful for what Land O'Lakes and USAID are doing for us," said co-op member Almaz Gebre Silasse.

*(This is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://www.america.gov>)* ♦

## Ethiopia Upgrades Its High-End Coffee Sector

By Phillip Kurata  
Staff Writer

**Jimma, Ethiopia** — Coffee, as legend has it, was first enjoyed by goats that ate beans off wild bushes in the lush mountains of central Ethiopia. A shepherd boy observed the animals cavorting and ate some beans out of curiosity. He experienced the caffeine-induced energy that his goats displayed, and from that moment human consumption of coffee spread around the world.

Today, Ethiopia produces just a small fraction of the world's coffee, dwarfed by coffee giants Brazil, Colombia and Vietnam, but that fraction holds a key to unlocking prosperity in one of Africa's poorest countries. The lock can be opened if Ethiopia's producers deliver consistently high-quality beans, on deadline, to supply a global niche market for fine coffees.

Sitting atop 2,000-meter-high mountains, workers at the 300-hectare Limu Kossa coffee plantation swing machetes at weeds between coffee bushes and apply organic fertilizer to the soil. During harvest, they will pick ripe, red berries, one by one, and spread them to dry on plastic mesh attached to poles above ground.

"Coffee is a very sensitive crop," said Abayneh Alemu. "It absorbs everything around it. If the beans are on the ground, they will absorb all the impurities on it. If they are dried on wire mesh, they will absorb rust. That is why it is best to dry coffee beans on plastic mesh above ground."

Alemu, a coffee agronomist employed by the U.S. Agency for In-



*Abayeh Alemu, Michelle Jennings, Aragawi Halibo, Berhane Egziabher (left to right) inspect drying beans.*

ternational Development (USAID), works with several dozen Ethiopian coffee growers to teach them techniques that will improve the yield of their plantations and the quality of their beans and link them with foreign buyers willing to pay top prices for premium quality. Alemu and two other coffee specialists teach the growers arcane but important information such as the optimal amount of sunshine and angle of the sun's rays that fall on the coffee bushes and the way to obtain the proper moisture content of the beans. "If there is too high moisture, a fungus will grow on the beans and produce a toxin," Alemu said. The optimum moisture content is 11.5 percent.

Ethiopia produces about 200,000 tons of coffee a year, a drop in the bucket compared to the millions of tons produced worldwide. "If Ethiopia is going to make money in the coffee industry, it has to appeal to the fine coffee market," Alemu

said.

In most countries where coffee is produced as an export commodity, machines strip coffee berries from branches along with leaves and twigs. Exporters do not pinpoint the exact location where each bag of beans is grown. The quality of the beans is variable, and extraneous matter ends up in the bags along with the beans, according to Alemu. In contrast, high-end coffee buyers insist on product purity and being able to trace the beans to the plantations where they were grown. They demand organic cultivation practices and fair treatment of laborers.

"The key to Ethiopian coffee is high quality, not massive production," said Alemu.

The coffee growers accepted into the USAID's coffee-development program must agree to follow all

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## Ethiopia Upgrades Its High-End Coffee Sector . . .

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the instructions and to share their new knowledge with other growers.

Michelle Jennings, a USAID official working in agribusiness and trade expansion, said the aid agency does not build government capacity but works with private businesses to make them successful. "If they make money, they will create jobs, and other people will follow in their footsteps," she said.

The manager of the Limu Kossa coffee plantation, Halibo Aragawi, said that increased quality and quantity of production have brought more wealth to the plantation, and that has had a spillover effect with the neighboring farmers.

"We are getting higher prices for higher quality," he said. "We are very grateful for the benefits that USAID has brought us," he said. According to Alemu, Ethiopian coffee is getting three times higher prices for its coffee in 2008 than in 2006, the result of both global demand and improving Ethiopian quality.

Proof is beginning to emerge that it is worthwhile for farmers to adopt USAID's technical guidance, according to Alemu. For the past few years, USAID has held demonstrations on plantations to teach advanced cultivation and processing methods. He said the demonstration farms are doing better business

"cuppers" who grade the quality of coffee. To date, the institute has trained 40 cuppers.

The institute also is helping the country develop a nongovernmental coffee certification group. "It is important that the certifying body be outside the government," Alemu



than other farms, attracting buyers who taste the product, inspect the cultivation practices and buy the beans on the spot.

USAID also helps the Ethiopian coffee industry develop a quality control system to give foreign buyers greater confidence in what they are buying. USAID has brought the services of the Coffee Quality Institute, based in Long Beach, California, to Ethiopia to train coffee

said. "The independence is needed to give confidence to foreign buyers."

*(This is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://www.america.gov>)* ♦

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## U. S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Implements New Pre-Travel Authorization for U.S.-Bound Travelers from Visa Waiver Countries

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has added seven countries to its Visa Waiver Program (VWP), and launched a new Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA) requiring citizens of Visa Waiver Program countries to complete an online process before traveling to the United States. These changes do not affect the U.S. visa application process for citizens of Ethiopia, which is not part of the Visa Waiver Program, but may apply to foreign citizens living in Ethiopia. The ESTA requirement does not affect U.S. citizens traveling overseas.

Beginning January 12, 2009, all nationals or citizens of the following countries who plan to travel to the United States for temporary business or pleasure under the VWP will need to receive an electronic travel authorization through ESTA prior to boarding a U.S.-bound airplane or cruise ship: Andorra, Austria, Australia, Belgium, Brunei, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, San Marino, Singapore, Slove-

nia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom.

On November 17, 2008 the Czech Republic, South Korea, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, and the Slovak Republic were formally added to the VWP. Eligible citizens or nationals of these newly admitted VWP countries may now travel to the United States under the VWP provided they have an e-passport and an approved authorization via ESTA. The requirement to register via ESTA for travelers from these countries begins immediately.

Currently, citizens of VWP countries complete a written I-94W form providing basic biographical, travel, and eligibility information while en-route to the U.S. On Aug. 1, 2008, DHS began accepting voluntary applications through the ESTA Web site at <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov/>. Until January 12, 2009, when ESTA is mandatory for all VWP travelers, ESTA applicants will also still need to complete an I-94W form en-route, for presentation at a U.S. port of entry.

Visa Waiver travelers can access ESTA at the following link: [http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/travel/id\\_visa/esta/](http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/travel/id_visa/esta/)

When a traveler logs onto ESTA, the system will determine, almost immediately in many cases, if an individual is eligible for VWP travel, and if such travel poses any law enforcement or security risks. ESTA applications may be submitted at any time prior to travel, and once approved, will be valid for up to two years or until the applicant's passport expires, whichever comes first. Authorizations will also be valid for multiple entries into the U.S. To facilitate the authorization process, DHS recommends that ESTA applications be submitted as soon as an applicant begins planning U.S.-bound travel, and not less than 72 hours prior to travel.

For additional information, please visit the ESTA website above, which includes a link to Frequently Asked Questions. ♦

# Obama Will Appoint Thousands to Government Positions

By Michelle Austein  
Staff Writer

**Washington** — President-elect Barack Obama will appoint thousands of people to important government positions in his administration, but more than 2.6 million employees of the federal government will continue in the jobs they now hold.



*Secretary Rice greets State Department employees. Most federal workers will work in the same posts for the next administration.*

Each president appoints thousands of political officials, including such high-profile posts as Cabinet secretaries, federal judges and ambassadors. These and many other high-level appointments are subject to confirmation by the Senate. (See "Dozens of Advisers Will Guide Next U.S. President ( <http://www.america.gov/st/elections08-english/2008/Novem-ber/20081114165105hmnietua0.377392.html?CP.rss=true> ).")

But not all presidential appointments are at a high level. Hundreds of young political appointees will be serving in entry-level roles in the Obama administration.

According to 209-page *The United States Government Policy and Supporting Positions*, published by the Government Printing Office, there are some 8,000 jobs that could be available in the next administration. The book, nicknamed the "Plum Book," is printed every four years and designed to serve as a guide to those interested in learning about political positions.

The Plum Book was created at the request of President Dwight Eisenhower, who when taking office in 1953 wanted a list of all political positions. Today's book lists each political job in the Bush administration, as well as the name of the person occupying the job and his or her salary. Some positions pay as much as \$200,000, but most posts pay significantly less. Some jobs, like part-time advisory positions, pay just a few hundred dollars a year.

Even though there are 8,000 political jobs listed in the current book, Obama will not be appointing 8,000 people personally. Rather, many of those positions allow Cabinet secretaries and other officials to hire their own personal staffs. For example, the next secretary of state might want to select his or her own assistants. Additionally, the Obama transition team will be reviewing the list of jobs carefully and could decide to eliminate or add positions.

Political experts say about 3,000 of the jobs will be awarded by Obama and his transition team to those who helped with the campaign or are well-known for their work in specific fields appropriate to the positions.

A transition to a new administration does bring some new people to Washington, but the change has little impact on the employment of more than 2.6 million federal government workers. These workers, who are hired and serve at U.S. government offices around the world, continue in their nonpolitical positions. Most earn what is considered middle-class salaries by U.S. standards.

Many of these civilian employees have served at high levels through several presidential administrations. Because it might take some time for Obama's new political appointees to begin their jobs, agencies have been identifying some of these career



*More than 144,000 individuals are seeking jobs in the Obama administration.*

civil servants to serve temporarily in political appointees' roles so that no important job is vacant.

## STRINGENT JOB APPLICATION PROCESS

Those who want to be appointed to the Obama administration might have to undergo one of the most stringent job application processes in history. The process also will be

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## Obama Will Appoint Thousands to Government Positions . . .

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competitive — five days after the transition team posted a jobs link on its Web site, Change.gov, about 144,000 applications already had been received.

Those under consideration for high-ranking positions must answer a seven-page questionnaire with 63 questions about their personal and professional lives. Applicants will have to provide significant details about their jobs and those of their spouses, their financial status and personal associations.

In what may be an indicator of changing times in an era of new technologies, applicants are expected to let the transition team know about their “Internet presence.” This includes information about their e-mails, Facebook pages or blog posts that could be deemed offensive.

One reason for the stringent application process is the Obama team’s pledge to reform Washington. Throughout his campaign, Obama promised to limit the role lobbyists and special interests play in influencing policy.

“President-elect Obama made a commitment to change the way Washington does business, and the vetting process exemplifies that,” Obama transition spokeswoman Stephanie Cutter told the New York Times.

As part of that commitment, Obama’s team implemented rules designed to severely limit the role lobbyists can play in the transition. Anyone hoping to work on the transition cannot have lobbied in the policy field to which they are assigned within the past 12 months or be involved currently with any lobbying work. Those assisting with the transition also are prohibited from lobbying the Obama administration for the next 12 months on matters on which they work during the transition. (See “Obama Team Severely Restricts Role of Lobbyists in Transition ( <http://www.america.gov/st/transition-english/2008/November/20081113142041esnamfuak0.8084833.html?CP.rss=true> ).”)

The president himself has some limits on his selections. For example, it is unlikely an Obama relative will be

working in the federal government. Federal law prohibits a public official from appointing, employing or promoting a relative in an agency “in which he is serving or over which he exercises jurisdiction or control.”

The Plum Book ( <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/plumbook/2008/index.html> ) can be viewed on the Government Printing Office’s Web site.

More information also is available on the Obama transition Web site. ( <http://www.change.gov/> )

*(This is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://www.america.gov>)* ♦



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## Obama Team Severely Restricts Role of Lobbyists in Transition

By Stephen Kaufman  
Staff Writer

**Washington** — President-elect Obama's transition team is implementing a set of rules designed to severely limit participation of federal lobbyists in what transition co-chairman John Podesta describes as "the most open and transparent transition in history."

Under the ethics rules, announced November 11, the transition team cannot accept financial contributions from federal lobbyists or gifts from special interest groups. Anyone hoping to work on the transition cannot have lobbied in the policy field to which they are assigned within the past 12 months or be involved currently with any lobbying work.

These rules "are the strictest, the most far-reaching ethics rules of any transition team in history," Podesta told reporters in Washington November 11. He said the rules continue Obama's prohibitions against lobbyist contributions to his presidential campaign and are part of his pledge to "change the way Washington works and to curb the influence of lobbyists."

Podesta, who co-chairs the Obama-Biden Transition Project and served as President Clinton's White House chief of staff from 1997 until 2001, said Obama is imposing tough rules "to stop the revolving door in Washington," by which U.S. officials have used the contacts and expertise they gained through government work to advocate for special interests once they have left federal service.

Lobbyists have developed a bad reputation among the American

public because they are seen as cashing in on their government experience after they leave government jobs to lobby for powerful companies and groups.



*John Podesta, co-chair of the Obama transition team, says the team's ethics rules limiting lobbyists are the strictest in history.*

However, former lobbyists have challenged the notion that their colleagues are "intellectually promiscuous" hired guns, pointing out that every cause and interest has its advocates, including trade associations, consumer groups, universities and state governments.

### **AGENCY REVIEW TEAMS TO HELP ASSESS FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

Podesta said those observing the Obama-Biden transition "will see a transition of government that is efficient, that is organized, that is bipartisan and more open and transparent than others before."

In his November 11 briefing, he announced the transition's agency review teams, which collect information from more than 100 federal departments, agencies and commissions, as well as the White House, to help senior Obama administration officials and appointees "make strategic policy, budgetary and personnel decisions prior to the inauguration."

The teams will be briefed by Bush administration officials about ongoing programs, projects and operations. President-elect Obama then will "render judgment as a result of and after those briefings occur, and he's had a chance to meet with his key advisers."

Podesta said Obama "wants to ensure that we hit the ground running on January 20 [2009]," but also recognizes there is only one president at a time, and until the inauguration, "President Bush is the leader of our government."

Bush's offers of support and assistance to the transition team show that "here in America we can compete vigorously in elections and challenge each other's ideas, yet come together in the service of a common purpose once the voting is done," Podesta said.

"I think we should all take pride in the fact that we once again displayed for the world the power of our democracy and reaffirmed that in America anything is possible when we come together as one nation."

*Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://www.america.gov> ♦*

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## Road to the White House

Although Barack Obama does not take office until January 20, 2009, the president-elect is busy preparing for his presidency by meeting with former and current government officials and appointing advisers who will play key roles in his administration.

### November 17

Barack Obama invited the man he defeated for the presidency, Arizona Republican Senator John McCain, for a private meeting at Obama's transition office in Chicago. In the United States, it is not unusual for

former political rivals to work with each other, but it is somewhat extraordinary for two presidential competitors to meet so soon after the election.

"At this defining moment in history, we believe that Americans of all parties want and need their leaders to come together and change the bad habits of Washington so that we can solve the common and urgent challenges of our time. It is in this spirit that we had a productive conversation today about the need to launch a new era of reform where we take on government waste and bitter partisanship in



Washington in order to restore trust in government, and bring back prosperity and opportunity for every hardworking American family," Obama and McCain said in a joint statement.

"We hope to work together in the days and months ahead on critical challenges like solving our financial crisis, creating a new energy economy, and protecting our nation's security," they said. Few details about the meeting were released.

### November 16

President-elect Barack Obama officially resigned his seat in the U.S. Senate, where he had represented the state of Illinois since 2005.

"Today, I am ending one journey to begin another. After serving the people of Illinois in the United States Senate — one of the highest honors and privileges of my life — I am stepping down as senator to prepare for the responsibilities I will assume as our nation's next president," Obama said.

It was during Obama's 2004 Senate campaign that his impassioned speech at the Democratic National Convention made him a national figure. On the day Illinois voters headed to the polls in 2004, an exit poll asked if the not-yet-elected Obama would make a good president. Nearly half of the respondents said he would.

*(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://www.america.gov>)* ♦

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## Gates Foundation's Agriculture Policy Includes Focus on Women

**By Kathryn McConnell**  
Staff Writer

**Washington** — A major American foundation has expanded its efforts in international agricultural development to include a strong focus on women and is encouraging other donors to do the same.

Women, who are 80 percent of Africa's farmers and more than 60 percent of the farmers in Asia, are "the managers of the developing world's food supply," doing everything from planting seeds and caring for livestock to harvesting crops and arranging for storage, in addition to preparing meals, says Catherine Bertini, a senior fellow at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and a former head of the U.N. World Food Programme.

Yet, women farmers received less than 10 percent of the credit awarded to men in the developing world and only 5 percent of the agricultural services. Women are "underrepresented" in farmer training programs, Bertini said at the World Food Prize forum in Des Moines, Iowa, in October.

Most agricultural research, usually done by men, is less effective when women's distinct perspectives and priorities are not taken into account, said Bertini, who also serves on the U.S. Agency for International Development's board of advisers on international food and agriculture.

The Gates Foundation integrates women's views into the planning of all of its agricultural projects, requiring all applications for grants to include a description of how a grant would specifically help women, Bertini said.

For instance, it requires grant recipients working on seed development to consider how new seeds might affect women, such as if crops grown from the seeds would require longer cooking times.

grams for women ... then we don't reach farmers," she said.

One way that an agricultural program can benefit women is to incorporate basic education into farmer training. When women can read



*The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation made its first grants to help farmers in 2006. The group is focusing on women like this Tanzanian.*

For a livestock management project, the foundation requires grant recipients to hire significant numbers of local women and to support women's professional development in agriculture.

The Gates Foundation, which began spending on agricultural development in 2006, said in early 2008 it was nearly doubling, to \$306 million, its commitment to increase farm productivity and small-scale farmer incomes in Africa and Asia.

Bertini said she is encouraging other aid donors to include women in planning their agricultural development programs.

"If we don't deliberately design pro-

grams for women ... then we don't reach farmers," she said. One way that an agricultural program can benefit women is to incorporate basic education into farmer training. When women can read

Another way is to encourage the development of farm tools designed for women, such as hoes with shafts and blades that women can handle more easily.

With support from the Gates Foundation and USAID, the Kenya-based African Women in Agriculture and Development group is offering two-year fellowships to fast-track the careers of women in sub-Saharan Africa in agricultural research and development.

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## International Student Enrollment at U.S. Colleges Breaks Records

By Jeffrey Thomas  
Staff Writer

**Washington** — The number of non-U.S. students enrolled in U.S. higher education institutions during the 2007-2008 academic year jumped 7 percent to a record total of 623,805, according to the Institute of International Education's (IIE) 2008 report on international education exchange.

"In today's competitive international environment, the increase in enrollments noted in this year's Open Doors data demonstrates again that the U.S. remains the premier destination for international students," said Assistant Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs Goli Ameri in welcoming the report, Open

Doors 2008. "The U.S. government joins the U.S. higher education community in a commitment to welcome international students to the United States. As someone who graduated from an American university as an international student, I have experienced America's welcome personally and can testify that America's universities not only accept and welcome international students warmly, but transform their lives."

First-time enrollments increased 10 percent in 2007-2008, following a similar 10 percent rise the previous year.

"The steady increase in the number of international students in the United States reflects actions taken by the U.S. government and many individual colleges and universities to ensure that international students know they are welcome here, and that we appreciate how they contribute to the intellectual and cultural environment on campus and in

W. Curris, president of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU), in welcoming the report. "AASCU remains committed to working with our members to enhance their international education efforts."

The report also found that the number of U.S. students studying abroad continues to grow — up 8

percent in the 2006-2007 academic year to a total of 241,791, and up close to 150 percent over the past decade.

The State Department has expanded support for educational advising around the world at EducationUSA advising centers, where international



*International graduate students in Ohio University*

the wider community," said IIE President Allan E. Goodman.

The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) funds the annual Open Doors study, which is based on a survey by IIE of nearly 2,800 accredited U.S. educational institutions. IIE is a nonprofit educational and cultural exchange organization based in New York City.

U.S. colleges and universities have "raised their visibility abroad and they are devoting more resources and improving infrastructures to support international students on their campuses," said Constantine

students can obtain information about the broad range of educational opportunities offered by U.S. colleges and universities. "We are supporting English language programs, like the English Access Microscholarship Program for underserved high school students in more than 60 countries, to prepare future generations of international students to pursue educational opportunities in the United States," the State Department said on the report's release.

The Access Microscholarship program, which is supported by Presi-

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## International Student Enrollment at U.S. Colleges Breaks Records

(Continued from page 12)

dent Bush's Middle East Partnership Initiative, provides scholarships for after-school classes and intensive summer learning activities to disadvantaged youth in predominantly Muslim communities around the world. About 44,000 students have participated to date.

Among the key findings from Open Doors 2008: the most popular fields of study for international students in the United States in 2007-2008 were business and management (20 percent of total), engineering (17 percent) and physical and life sciences (9 percent), social sciences (9 percent), mathematics and computer sciences (8 percent), fine and applied arts (6 percent) health professions (5 percent), intensive English language (5 percent), education (3 percent), humanities (3 percent) and agriculture (2 percent). Fields growing the fastest in popularity were intensive English language (up 30 percent from the previous year) and social sciences (up 6 percent).

For the sixth year in a row, the University of Southern California in Los Angeles leads U.S. institutions in international student enrollment (7,115), with New York University coming in second (6,404). Other campuses in the top 10 are Columbia University in New York, New York (6,297); the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (5,933), Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana (5,772); University of

Michigan in Ann Arbor, Michigan (5,748); the University of California, Los Angeles (5,557); the University of Texas at Austin (5,550); Harvard in Cambridge, Massachusetts (4,948); Boston University (4,789); and the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia (4,610).

### INDIA, CHINA, SOUTH KOREA SEND MOST STUDENTS

The leading country of origin for international students in the United States for the seventh consecutive year was India (94,563), with the number of Indian students increasing 13 percent over 2006-2007.

China ranked second with 81,127 students (up 20 percent), and South Korea was third with 69,124 (up 11 percent).

Other countries sending sharply higher numbers of students to study include Saudi Arabia (number nine, with 9,873 students, up 25 percent after a 129 percent increase last year), Nepal (number 11 with 8,936 students, up 9.3 percent) and Vietnam (number 13 with 8,769 students, up 45 percent after a 31 percent increase last year).

Open Doors was released at the beginning of the ninth annual International Education Week, which is sponsored jointly by the Department of State and the Department of Education. "During International Education Week, we have the opportunity to highlight for the citi-

zens of other countries the value of experiencing an American education and American culture firsthand, and to demonstrate to American students the value of studying abroad and hosting international exchange students," Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said.

For additional information on studying in the United States, see Study in the U.S. ( <http://amlife.america.gov/amlife/education/study.html> ) and ECA's EducationUSA ( <http://www.educationusa.state.gov/> ) Web site.

For more information on visa procedures and traveling to the United States, see [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov) ( <http://www.travel.state.gov/> ) and the State Department electronic journal See You in the USA ( <http://www.america.gov/publications/ejournalusa/0905.html> ).

Information on Open Doors 2008 ( <http://opendoors.iienetwork.org/> ) is available on the IIE Web site.

For more on International Education Week ( <http://iew.state.gov/> ), see the Department of State Web site.

*(This is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://www.america.gov>)* ♦

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## G20 Summit to Address Immediate Financial Issues, Future Reforms

By Andrzej Zwanecki  
Staff Writer

**Washington** — The Bush administration expects world leaders attending a summit on the financial crisis to agree on immediate steps to address the most pressing issues and an outline of reforms that would help prevent a similar crisis.

Leaders of the Group of 20 (G20) countries are scheduled to meet in Washington November 14-15. Under Secretary of Treasury David McCormick said he expects them to discuss near-term issues such as fiscal measures to revive stagnating economies, the availability of resources at multinational banks, trade financing in emerging markets, and coordinated monetary policies.

G20 financial officials, at their November 8-9 meeting in Sao Paulo, Brazil, endorsed the call by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for a global, coordinated fiscal action.

But McCormick, briefing reporters November 12, said that because countries' fiscal responses to the crisis differ both in timing and magnitude, "everybody being at the same place in terms of a fiscal measure [is] very unlikely." For example, U.S. officials have noted, the United States approved an economic stimulus package earlier this year and the White House is not entirely convinced that another one is needed.

Democratic leaders in Congress have been working on a new stimulus package, which is supported by President-elect Barack Obama.

G20 leaders also have expressed a desire to give political impetus to the stalled Doha round of World Trade Organization (WTO) talks, according to Bush's assistant for international economic affairs, Daniel Price, who joined McCormick at the press briefing. The WTO ne-



*President Bush speaks at the Manhattan Institute about financial markets and the world economy.*

gotiations have stalled despite repeated attempts to revive them.

But whatever immediate action G20 leaders agree on, they also are expected to focus on medium- and long-term financial reforms to make the global financial system less vulnerable. U.S. officials have said the summit in Washington will be only the first in what they view as a series of gatherings necessary to plan and implement such reforms.

President Bush said November 13

that a common understanding of the root causes of the global crisis will help the G20 develop a strategy to reform financial and regulatory systems.

"Leaders will establish principles for adapting our financial systems to the realities of the 21st century marketplace," the president said.

Price said the financial crisis has shown a need for changes in financial regulatory structures, including strengthening transparency and accountability in financial markets, promoting their integrity, aligning national regulatory regimes, and enhancing multilateral financial institutions such as the IMF and Financial Stability Forum (FSF). According to U.S. officials, leaders may discuss such specific issues as global accounting standards, complex financial products, credit rating agencies and market manipulation.

Bush said "different countries will naturally bring different perspectives" to the summit. Large emerging-market countries, which are likely to be the main sources of economic growth for the foreseeable future, have demanded more say in world economic and financial affairs.

The United States has strongly supported giving those nations more voting and related power in governing structures of the International Monetary Fund and other multilateral institutions.

"We can't simply task the IMF, FSF or other international financial institutions to solve the problems, unless member nations all see that they have a shared interest in a so-

*(Continued on page 15)*

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## G20 Summit to Address Immediate Financial Issues, Future Reforms . . .

(Continued from page 14)

lution," U.S. Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson said November 12.

European leaders have called for strong global regulatory measures. British Prime Minister Gordon Brown has proposed the creation of a new international supervisory body, and France's president, Nicolas Sarkozy, urged financial regulation that applies across country borders.

U.S. officials have acknowledged the need for alignment and, in some areas, convergence of national financial regulation. But they view calls for universal global regulation and new international regulatory bodies as unrealistic.

"The process is not about moving to a single global regulator," Price said. This idea has not got much traction among G20 countries, he added.

Bush said countries must recognize that government intervention is not "a cure-all" and warned it may hurt market efficiency if it goes too far.



*World leaders attend the G20 Summit on November 15, 2008 in Washington, DC. (AFP/Pool/File/Rainer Jansen)*

Many U.S. private-sector experts support this view and urge smarter, rather than heavy, regulation.

Nevertheless, U.S. officials believe that, under pressure from a global economic slowdown and uncertainty in credit markets, the G20 countries will find themselves on the same page on many important issues.

"I actually think that there is a lot more common ground among countries who will be around the table than the rhetoric might suggest," Price said.

Sarkozy also has urged rewriting the rules of capitalism.

But U.S. officials caution against too-radical solutions in the haste to fix the crisis.

*(This is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://www.america.gov>)* ♦

## Gates Foundation's Agriculture Policy Includes Focus on Women . . .

(Continued from page 11)

Participating countries include Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia. Sixty women have received fellowships for 2008–2010.

The Gates Foundation also is partnering with organizations involved in gender integration to learn from

their experiences and understand how development projects affect women.

The World Food Prize forum annually brings together representatives of government, academia, nonprofit groups and the private sector from around the world that focus on food and agricultural development. The 2008 meeting included representatives from more than 60 coun-

tries.

*(This is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://www.america.gov>)* ♦

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## Sec. Paulson on Fighting the Financial Crisis, One Step at a Time

The following op-ed by U.S. Treasury Secretary Henry M. Paulson Jr., "Fighting the Financial Crisis, One Challenge at a Time," appeared in the New York Times November 17 and is in the public domain. There are no republication restrictions.

(begin byliner)

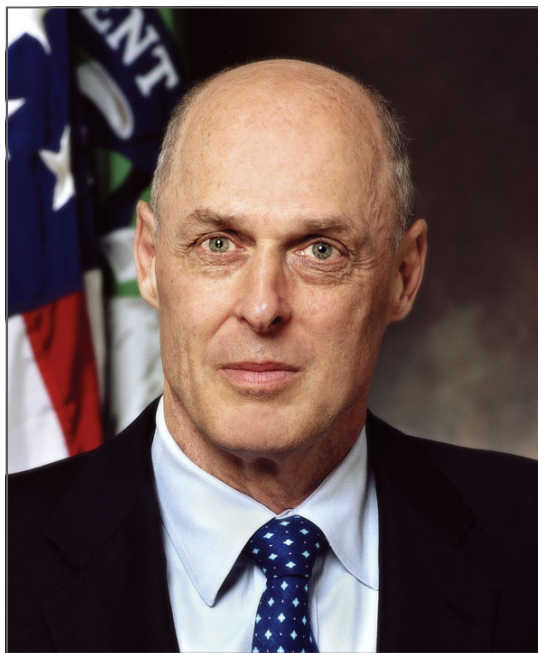
Fighting the Financial Crisis, One Challenge at a Time  
By Treasury Secretary Henry M. Paulson Jr.  
November 17, 2008

Washington - We are going through a financial crisis more severe and unpredictable than any in our lifetimes. We have seen the failures, or the equivalent of failures, of Bear Stearns, IndyMac, Lehman Brothers, Washington Mutual, Wachovia, Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac and the American International Group. Each of these failures would be tremendously consequential in its own right. But we faced them in succession, as our financial system seized up and severely damaged the economy.

By September, the government faced a systemwide crisis. After months of making the most of the authority we already had, we asked Congress for a comprehensive rescue package so we could stabilize our financial system and minimize further damage to our economy.

By the time the legislation had passed on Oct. 3, the global market crisis was so broad and so severe that we needed to move quickly and take powerful steps to stabilize our financial system and to get credit flowing again. Our initial intent was to strengthen the banking

system by purchasing illiquid mortgages and mortgage-related securities. But the severity and magnitude of the situation had worsened to such an extent that an asset purchase program would not be effective enough, quickly enough. There-



*Treasury Secretary Henry M. Paulson Jr.*

fore, exercising the authority granted by Congress in this legislation, we quickly deployed a \$250 billion capital injection program, fully anticipating we would follow that with a program for buying troubled assets.

There is no playbook for responding to turmoil we have never faced. We adjusted our strategy to reflect the facts of a severe market crisis, always keeping focused on our goal: to stabilize a financial system that is integral to the everyday lives of all Americans. By mid-October, our actions, in combination with the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation's guarantee of certain debt issued by financial institutions,

helped us to accomplish the first major priority, which was to immediately stabilize the financial system.

As we assessed how best to use the remaining money for the Troubled Asset Relief Program, we carefully considered the uncertainties around the deteriorating economic situation in the United States and globally. The latest economic reports underscore the challenges we are facing. The gross domestic product for the third quarter (which ended Sept. 30, three days before the bill passed) shrank by 0.3 percent. The unemployment rate rose in October to a level not seen since the mid-1990s. Home prices in 10 major cities have fallen 18 percent over the previous year. Auto sales numbers plummeted in October and were more than a third lower than one year ago. The slowing of European economies has been even more drastic.

I have always said that the decline in the housing market is at the root of the economic downturn and our financial market stress. And the economy, as it slows further, threatens to prolong this decline, as well as the stress on our financial institutions and financial markets.

A troubled-asset purchase program, to be effective, would require a huge commitment of money. In mid-September, before economic conditions worsened, \$700 billion in troubled asset purchases would have had a significant impact. But half of that sum, in a worse economy, simply isn't enough firepower.

*(Continued on page 17)*



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## Sec. Paulson on Fighting the Financial Crisis, One Step at a Time . . .

*(Continued from page 16)*

If we have learned anything throughout this year, we have learned that this financial crisis is unpredictable and difficult to counteract. We decided it was prudent to reserve our TARP money, maintaining not only our flexibility, but also that of the next administration.

The current \$250 billion capital purchase program is strong medicine for our financial institutions. More capital enables banks to take losses as they write down or sell troubled assets. And stronger capitalization is essential to increasing lending, which is vital to economic recovery.

Recently I've been asked two questions. First, Congress gave you the authority you requested, and the economy has only become worse. What went wrong? Second, if housing and mortgages are at the root of our economic difficulties, why aren't you addressing those problems?

The answer to the first question is that the purpose of the financial rescue legislation was to stabilize our financial system and to strengthen it. It is not a panacea for all our economic difficulties. The crisis in our financial system had already spilled over into the overall economy. But recovery will happen much, much faster than it would

have had we not used TARP to stabilize our system. If Congress had not given us the authority for TARP and the capital purchase program and our financial system had continued to shut down, our economic situation would be far worse today.

The answer to the second question is that more access to lower-cost mortgage lending is the No. 1 thing we can do to slow the decline in the housing market and reduce the number of foreclosures. Together with our bank capital program, the moves we have made to stabilize and strengthen Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, and through them to increase the flow of mortgage credit, will promote mortgage lending. We are also working with the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the F.D.I.C. and others to reduce preventable foreclosures.

I am very proud of the decisive actions by the Treasury Department, the Federal Reserve and the F.D.I.C. to stabilize our financial system. We have done what was necessary as facts and conditions in the market and economy have changed, adjusting our strategy to most effectively address the crisis. We have preserved the flexibility of President-elect Barack Obama and the new secretary of the Treasury to address the challenges in the economy and capital markets they will face.

As policymakers face the difficult challenges ahead, they will begin with two considerable advantages: a significantly more stable banking system, one where the failure of a major bank is no longer a pressing concern; and the resources, authority and potential programs available to deal with the future capital and liquidity needs of credit providers.

Deploying these new tools and programs to restore our financial institutions, financial markets and the flow of lending and credit will determine, to a large extent, the speed and trajectory of our economic recovery. I am confident of success, because our economy is flexible and resilient, rooted in the entrepreneurial spirit and productivity of the American people.

[Henry M. Paulson Jr. is the secretary of the Treasury.]

(end byliner)

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## Palestinian Youth Center Shows U.S. Commitment to Mideast Peace

By David McKeeby  
Staff Writer

**Washington** — While Middle East peace negotiations may dominate the headlines, the U.S.-Palestinian Partnership is helping to prepare a new generation of leaders essential to the successful establishment of a future Palestinian state, an undertaking that Under Secretary of State James K. Glassman says shows “the solid and continuing commitment of the United States government to the Palestinian people.”

Glassman, who serves as under secretary for public diplomacy and public affairs, joined Palestinian Prime Minister Salam Fayyad and partnership co-chairs Ziad Asali, president of the American Task Force on Palestine, and Jean Case, chief executive officer of the Case Foundation, at the November 17 opening ceremony of a new youth development and resource center in the West Bank town of Beita. The center is the first of four that the partnership is working to expand. Also working on the expansion are the Palestinian Authority’s Ministry of Youth and Sports and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

“The partnership is working to create youth centers for Palestinian young people, promote job creation projects, and encourage investment in the Palestinian economy,” Glassman said. “The kind of economic and social progress that the partnership is working to achieve is laying the foundation for a sustainable, prosperous and independent Palestinian state.”

The four primary centers, along with a network of more than 60 affiliated youth centers across the

West Bank, will be able to deliver services to more than 7,500 Palestinian youths. The centers will provide young Palestinians with Internet connections and training in information technology, English language classes and sports and recreation programs. The centers also provide leadership and life skills training to enable participants to take on future career challenges and become full and productive participants as citizens and leaders in their communities, Glassman said.



*State’s James Glassman, right, joins Palestinian official Tahani Abu Daqqa, second from right, to open the new Beita youth center.*

Created in the weeks following the November 2007 Annapolis Conference by President Bush, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and USAID Administrator Henrietta Fore, the U.S.-Palestinian Partnership is a unique mix of U.S. government agencies and American businesses, as well as nonprofit organizations and other private sector entities dedicated to helping the Palestinian Authority promote new economic opportunities and build new governing institutions.

U.S. development aid for the Palestinian Authority is a key pillar of the Annapolis process that complements U.S. support for ongoing Israeli-Palestinian peace talks; efforts

to implement the Quartet “Roadmap” of security and confidence-building measures developed by the United Nations, the European Union, Russia and the United States; and diplomatic outreach initiatives to encourage other nations in the region to take part in building peace.

Glassman also announced a new State Department–sponsored exchange program that will enable senior managers of the Palestinian youth centers to travel to Washington and Atlanta, where they will partner with the Boys and Girls Clubs of America for hands-on training in developing youth programs, managing facilities and finance and making the youth centers a true part of their local communities by working with volunteers and engaging parents. The Boys and Girls Clubs of America, which make up a leading youth services nonprofit organization, have delivered recreational, academic and other services for more than 100 years to some 4.8 million American children at more than 4,300 youth centers located in all 50 states and on U.S. military bases worldwide.

In the belief that a stable economy creates hope, opportunity and a climate for peace, the partnership supports Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and Prime Minister Fayyad’s efforts to attract international investment by developing quick-impact projects to promote job creation in the West Bank. While in the region, Glassman’s delegation will also meet with public and private sector leaders to discuss additional investment opportunities and explore promising commercial enterprises in the West Bank. ♦

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## Iraqi Cabinet Approves Security Pact with United States

By David McKeeby  
Staff Writer

**Washington** — Iraq's Cabinet has approved a new U.S.-Iraqi security agreement calling for a full withdrawal of American forces from the country by the end of 2011.

The agreement now goes to Iraq's parliament for approval. White House spokesman Gordon Johndroe welcomed the Iraqi Cabinet's November 16 vote as another step forward for Iraq's fledgling democracy. "We remain hopeful and confident we'll soon have an agreement that serves both the people of Iraq and the United States well and sends a signal to the region and the world that both our governments are committed to a stable, secure and democratic Iraq."

In addition to setting a withdrawal date, the agreement signed November 17 by U.S. Ambassador to Iraq Ryan Crocker and Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshiyar Zebari would place new limits on U.S. forces operating in Iraq beginning January 1, 2009.

"The process affirmed the idea that these were two free, sovereign states that were dealing with one another and came to an agreement," State Department spokesman Sean McCormack said November 17. "Two sovereign states that had to answer to their public. That was very clear from the Iraqi side; I think it's obvious for our side as well."

The U.S. side also agreed to an Iraqi request that would permit Iraqi authorities to prosecute serious crimes committed by off-duty American personnel outside their bases — a key sticking point for U.S. negotiators.

"If this does go forward, and you have the Iraqi parliament passing it,



*U.S. Ambassador to Iraq Ryan C. Crocker and Iraq's Foreign Minister Hoshiyar Zebari sign the U.S.-Iraq Strategic Framework and Security Agreements (SOFA) at the Iraq Ministry of Foreign Affairs on November 17, 2008.*

and it's approved by the presidency council, you will have had an agreement signed between the United States and a democratic Iraq," McCormack said. "That will change the Middle East forever, for the positive."

Since 2003, U.S.-led coalition forces have operated in Iraq under a U.N. Security Council resolution that expires at the end of 2008. U.S. and Iraqi officials seek to replace the U.N. mandate and continue security cooperation through a status of forces agreement — a pact authorizing the presence of U.S. troops and outlining their ac-

tivities in Iraq. The United States has concluded similar agreements with 78 other countries worldwide, including Germany, Japan, South Korea and several of Iraq's Gulf neighbors. U.S. officials say that without the legal foundation offered by the accord, all coalition-led military operations would cease in Iraq.

American and Iraqi diplomats began negotiations in March, initially hoping to conclude the agreement by midsummer. Talks continued into the fall as negotiators on both sides redoubled efforts to craft a security arrangement that could be accepted by officials in Baghdad and Washington.

While violence has declined drastically in 2008, recent days have seen a spate of bombings in Baghdad, Baqubah and Hillah. These bombings have targeted Iraqi police officers, neighborhood guards in an Iraqi Sunni community and local residents, underlining what U.S. officials have called Iraq's

"fragile, but reversible" security gains and the continued need for security assistance as Iraq continues to build democratic governing institutions.

"In terms of U.S. and coalition military presence, clearly there is going to be a need for that beyond the end of the year," Ambassador Crocker told reporters in a June 5 briefing on the negotiations. "The more Iraqis are able to do in terms of their own security, the less requirement there is for outside support. That's what Iraqis want, and that's what we want."

*(Continued on page 23)*

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## Human Rights Provide Framework for Principled Journalism

By Jane Morse  
Staff Writer

**Washington** — Improved knowledge of human rights is giving young reporters an additional tool as they approach a variety of stories, says Peter Spielmann, founder of the Human Rights Reporting Seminar at Columbia University's Graduate School for Journalism, one of the most respected journalism schools in the United States.

Spielmann, a veteran journalist who launched the seminar in 2000, told America.gov: "I think that, at most, 20 percent of my work has had some human rights aspect, even if I didn't think of it in those terms at that time."

Looking back on his career, Spielmann, who is currently an editor and supervisor on the Associated Press' North America Desk, said it was the crisis in East Timor during the late 1990s that really raised for him the question about the effect principled journalism could have on dangerous, abusive situations. That crisis also inspired Spielmann to develop the Human Rights Reporting Seminar.

"The militia situation in East Timor benefited from fairly prompt and dramatic media coverage," Spielmann said. The Australian government was impelled by the publicity, he said, to send a peacekeeping force that helped disband the militia and to encourage the Timorese government to pursue a truth and reconciliation process.

### THE IMPORTANCE OF PRINCIPLES

"Human rights give reporters a litmus test, a framework to work with," Spielmann said. "It gives you



Peter Spielmann

a broad perspective. When you get into these confusing, individual situations, you have some principles to fall back on — some commandments, as it were."

Those "commandments," he said, are the broadly agreed upon values



Bill Berkeley

as outlined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948.

Spielmann, who worked as an AP correspondent at the United Nations for five years, said reporters also

should be guided by other major documents defining human rights, such as France's Declaration of the Rights of Man, the U.S. Declaration of Independence and the British Magna Carta.

"These establish standards against which government, corporations, entities like the United Nations, and other institutions can be evaluated. Are the people in their care receiving their civil, political, social and cultural rights?"

Spielmann said he devoted one session of his seminar to the trauma journalists must face when covering wars and other violent events. Here again, human rights knowledge helps.

"I think if you have in mind a number of principles that you believe in, it helps you to live through the exposure to difficult and disturbing situations.

"It helps, I hope, that despite what you are seeing in front of you, there is such a thing as decency; there are moral principles that one can argue for and try to uphold and even enforce, if it gets to that," he said.

### DEVELOPING A PASSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Although he still advises graduate students, Spielmann turned over the Human Rights Reporting Seminar to Bill Berkeley in 2006.

As a journalist, Berkeley has worked mostly in Africa and covered events dealing with genocide, torture, summary killings, state tyranny and state terror for major newspapers and magazines. He also

*(Continued on page 23)*

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## Artistic Expressions Promote Human Rights

By Lauren Monsen  
Staff Writer

**Washington** — The great Spanish artist Francisco José de Goya y Lucientes (1746–1828) bore witness to his country’s turmoil in the early 19th century by creating a series of paintings and prints that reflected the horrors of war. Since then, many artists have followed his lead, using art as a vehicle for social protest in works that promote human rights, peace and justice.

Examples include artistic giants of the 20th century, such as painter Diego Rivera (1886–1957). Rivera and other 1930s muralists covered the walls of Mexico’s schools, ministerial buildings, churches and museums with images that celebrated their country’s history and recognized the contributions of Mexico’s marginalized Indian population. The muralists believed that placing art in public spaces had a democratizing effect because it made art accessible to all people, regardless of race or social class.

Spanish painter/sculptor Pablo Picasso (1881–1973) was another artist whose perspective was shaped, in part, by Goya. Picasso’s monumental painting *Guernica* depicted the 1937 Nazi bombing of Guernica, Spain, during the Spanish Civil War. The painting served to highlight — and condemn — the atrocities that Picasso had witnessed.

### ART RENEWING COMMUNITIES

Many 21st-century artists are rising to the same challenge, even if their goals are more modest. Brazil’s Monica Nador, whose work has



*Cuban-born salsa singer Willy Chirino addresses social issues in his music and runs a foundation to help disadvantaged children.*

been showcased in France, Australia and elsewhere, was educated at a fine arts academy. She became increasingly troubled by the idea that creating art was a luxurious pursuit with no relevance to the desperate poverty she saw in some parts of Latin America.

A re-examination of her relationship to painting led Nador to use her talents to help disadvantaged communities preserve their historic traditions. For several years, Nador has traveled to urban and rural areas in Brazil, Cuba and Mexico, at the invitation of local citizens, to paint murals on houses and other buildings.

Residents help Nador choose colors and decorative motifs, so the finished murals often have a distinctly regional flavor. Everyone is both teacher and student, involved in a process of civic renewal, according to Nador. The work, she said, is “good for people’s mental and spiritual health.”

Nador also established the Jardim Miriam Arte Clube (JAMAC), a non-

profit association named after one of the roughest neighborhoods in São Paulo, Brazil. Working from Nador’s studio home, JAMAC recruits at-risk youths into arts programs that generate income, teach skills and keep youngsters off the streets. Through JAMAC, Nador fights violence, crime, discrimination, injustice and hunger — and the work of her young apprentices reflects art’s powerful effects.

Participants discover “that art can be healing,” Nador told *America.gov*. “It can produce bonds, friendship, a sense of citizenship, of belonging.” Perhaps most important, “it brings joy” to people who have known little happiness.

### OTHER VOICES OF CONSCIENCE

Musicians, too, have a well-documented history of political activism. During the 1960s, many American rock bands and singer/songwriters (including Bob Dylan and Joan Baez) opposed U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War, and the tradition of music as a form of protest continues in the United States.

Message-driven music also took root in other parts of the world. Jamaica’s Bob Marley (1945-1981) wrote and performed reggae songs that attacked social injustice at home and abroad. Pop singer Juan Luis Guerra of the Dominican Republic often addresses social issues in his music, as does Cuban-born salsa singer Willy Chirino, a performer considered one of the fathers of the so-called “Miami Sound” (a fusion of Cuban, Brazilian and Caribbean rhythms).

*(Continued on page 22)*

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## Artistic Expressions Promote Human Rights . . .

(Continued from page 21)

Mixed-media and multidisciplinary artists offer strong messages as well. Sri Lankan singer/songwriter Nimal Mendis directed a documentary film called *Shattered Pearl*, which highlights the struggles of women affected by the ongoing civil war in Sri Lanka.

Canadian artist Rebecca Belmore examines history, displacement, cultural loss and identity through a combination of sculpture, installation, and video and live performances. A member of the Anishinaabe tribe of North American Indians, Belmore develops projects that explore how Canada's indigenous population once had to forfeit its heritage because of government-imposed assimilation into Western culture.

The need to reclaim tribal heritage was dramatized by Belmore's 1991 project, *Speaking to Their Mother*, a work that underscored the complex relationship of First Nations peoples to the land that nurtured their ancestors. Belmore created an enormous, intricate wood megaphone and toured First Nations communities across Canada, asking residents



*Burmese comedian U Maung Thura (better known as Zarganar) uses humor to mock and challenge his country's ruling military junta.*

to speak to the land through her megaphone. The result was a series of photographs and audio recordings, described by art critic Michael Lithgow as "heartfelt and moving addresses" by Indian tribal representatives.

Other compelling examples of the artist-as-messenger phenomenon

can be found worldwide. In Burma, comedian U Maung Thura (better known by his stage name, Zarganar, or "The Tweezers") uses sly humor to mock his country's ruling military junta — and endures harsh retaliation. After a cyclone hit Burma in May, Zarganar organized a campaign to distribute food and supplies to stricken villagers, but because his relief efforts had drawn attention to the junta's incompetence, his campaign was shut down.

Wherever they may be, artists who stand against injustice are playing an important role, stirring the collective conscience of their audience through paintings, music, photography, films or live works. It is a mission that Goya — an artist hailed, simultaneously, as the last of the Old Masters and the first of the Moderns — almost certainly would applaud.

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Telling America's story

**Human Rights Provide Framework for Principled Journalism . . .**

*(Continued from page 20)*

worked for several years for a human rights organization investigating human rights abuses in southern Africa. He has written two books about Africa and is working on another about Iran.

"A major objective for the class for me is to turn students on to great journalism on human rights and great reporters who have written profoundly on the subject," Berkeley told America.gov. "The major thrust of my course is to get students fired up and give them a sense of the power of the stories and the possibility of storytelling."

Apartheid in South Africa initially triggered Berkeley's interest in human rights.

"I was somebody who found racism

profoundly offensive but also fascinating. I was drawn to the struggle going on in the 1980s in South Africa," he said.

Berkeley said the work of journalists can and does reach decision makers who can make a difference in world affairs and the area of human rights. He noted the satisfaction he felt when former U.S. President Bill Clinton read and praised Berkeley's book explaining the Rwanda genocide.

"As dispassionate and cynical as they claim to be, ultimately what motivates many journalists is the fantasy of saving the world," Berkeley said.

*(This is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://www.america.gov/>) ♦*

**Iraqi Cabinet Approves Security Pact with United States . . .**

*(Continued from page 19)*

In late October, the Iraqi Cabinet authorized Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki to reopen talks on the agreement, which has been under close scrutiny by Baghdad lawmakers.

Media reports indicate Iraqi officials sought more than 100 changes to the agreement.

"Some [changes] were substantive, some were linguistic, some were stylistic. We looked at it all," Crocker told The New York Times. "We were as forthcoming as we could possibly be in responding."

The pact was approved by 27 of 28 cabinet ministers present at the meeting, following an indirect en-

dorsement by Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, an influential Shiite cleric. While Iraq's Shiite and Kurdish communities largely support the agreement, opposition exists among Iraq's Sunnis, making the upcoming parliament vote a test of the "true national consensus" Iraqi leaders hope to build around the security agreement.

At the United Nations, U.S. Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad said the negotiations have continued between the United States and Iraq on the transitioning relationship "with a goal of a strong and strategic relationship with Iraq, which respects both countries' sovereignty and serves both countries' interests."

Khalilzad reported to the U.N. Security Council that since June

2007, when an increase in troops began to bolster security across the country, civilian deaths due to violence have decreased by 80 percent. The number of overall attacks by insurgents has decreased by 86 percent.

And Iraqi security force deaths have fallen by 84 percent, Khalilzad said. In the same period, U.S. military deaths in Iraq have declined by 87 percent, coalition military deaths in Iraq have fallen 88 percent and sectarian-related deaths have decreased by 95 percent, he said.

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