

# **Will Trump Trash it?**

## **U.S. Human Rights and Humanitarian Aid**

**Edited by**

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## About the Editor

Michael Erbschloe has worked for over 30 years performing analysis of the economics of information technology, public policy relating to technology, and utilizing technology in reengineering organization processes. He has authored several books on social and management issues of information technology that were published by McGraw Hill and other major publishers. He has also taught at several universities and developed technology-related curriculum. His career has focused on several interrelated areas:

- Technology strategy, analysis, and forecasting
- Teaching and curriculum development
- Writing books and articles
- Publishing and editing
- Public policy analysis and program evaluation

### Books by Michael Erbschloe

Social Media Warfare: Equal Weapons for All (Auerbach Publications)

Walling Out the Insiders: Controlling Access to Improve Organizational Security (Auerbach Publications)

Physical Security for IT (Elsevier Science)

Trojans, Worms, and Spyware (Butterworth-Heinemann)

Implementing Homeland Security in Enterprise IT (Digital Press)

Guide to Disaster Recovery (Course Technology)

Socially Responsible IT Management (Digital Press)

Information Warfare: How to Survive Cyber Attacks (McGraw Hill)

The Executive's Guide to Privacy Management (McGraw Hill)

Net Privacy: A Guide to Developing & Implementing an e-business Privacy Plan (McGraw Hill)

## **Introduction**

On January 16, 2016 the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor had the following position posted on their website. The big questions is will the human rights campaigns survive Trump?

The protection of fundamental human rights was a foundation stone in the establishment of the United States over 200 years ago. Since then, a central goal of U.S. foreign policy has been the promotion of respect for human rights, as embodied in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The United States understands that the existence of human rights helps secure the peace, deter aggression, promote the rule of law, combat crime and corruption, strengthen democracies, and prevent humanitarian crises. Because the promotion of human rights is an important national interest, the United States seeks to:

- Hold governments accountable to their obligations under universal human rights norms and international human rights instruments;
- Promote greater respect for human rights, including freedom from torture, freedom of expression, press freedom, women's rights, children's rights, and the protection of minorities;
- Promote the rule of law, seek accountability, and change cultures of impunity;
- Assist efforts to reform and strengthen the institutional capacity of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and the UN Commission on Human Rights; and
- Coordinate human rights activities with important allies, including the EU, and regional organizations.

The Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor (DRL) applies three key principles to its work on human rights:

- First, DRL strives to learn the truth and state the facts in all of its human rights investigations, reports on country conditions, speeches and votes in the UN, and asylum profiles. Each year, DRL develops, edits, and submits to Congress a 5,000-page report on human rights conditions in over 190 countries that is respected globally for its objectivity and accuracy. DRL also provides relevant information on country conditions to the Immigration and Naturalization Service and immigration judges in asylum cases.
- Second, DRL takes consistent positions concerning past, present, and future abuses. With regard to past abuses, it actively promotes accountability. To stop ongoing abuses, the bureau uses an "inside-outside" approach that combines vigorous, external focus on human rights concerns (including the possibility of sanctions) with equally robust support for internal reform. To prevent future abuses, it promotes early warning and preventive diplomacy. Each year DRL ensures that human rights considerations are incorporated into U.S. military training and security assistance programs; promotes the rights of women through international campaigns for political participation and full equality; conducts high-level human rights dialogues with other governments; coordinates U.S. policy on human rights with key allies; and raises key issues and cases through diplomatic and public channels.
- Third, DRL forges and maintains partnerships with organizations, governments, and multilateral institutions committed to human rights. The bureau takes advantage of multilateral fora to focus international attention on human rights problems and to seek

correction. Each year, DRL provides significant technical, financial, or staff support for U.S. delegations to the annual meetings of several international human rights organizations; conducts regular consultations with Native American tribes and serves as the Secretary's principal advisor on international indigenous rights issues; maintains relations with the UN High Commissioner on Human Rights; and supports the creation of effective multilateral human rights mechanisms and institutions for accountability. (1)

One of the concerns that pro human rights people have about the upcoming change in presidents in the United States is that the new administration will be influenced by right-wing conservatives who do not agree with the liberal perspective on human rights and the role that the United States should take globally. The purpose of this book is to capture, record, and preserve as much material possible from the websites of the United States government regarding human rights activities. At a later time this material will be compared to the positions and postings of the new administration.

The U.S. Agency for International Development website was also reviewed to a information on the human rights aide was extracted and preserved in this book.

## **The Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor Programs**

The Human Rights & Democracy Fund (HRDF) is the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor's flagship program. Since Congress established it in FY 1998, the Human Rights & Democracy Fund has been used to fulfill the bureau's mandate of monitoring and promoting human rights and democracy worldwide.

The HRDF is designed to act as the Department's "venture capital" fund for democracy and human rights. This flexibility allows the U.S. to respond rapidly and decisively to democratization and human rights crises and deficits. As a result, DRL's groundbreaking, cutting-edge programs face high risk, but pay great dividends.

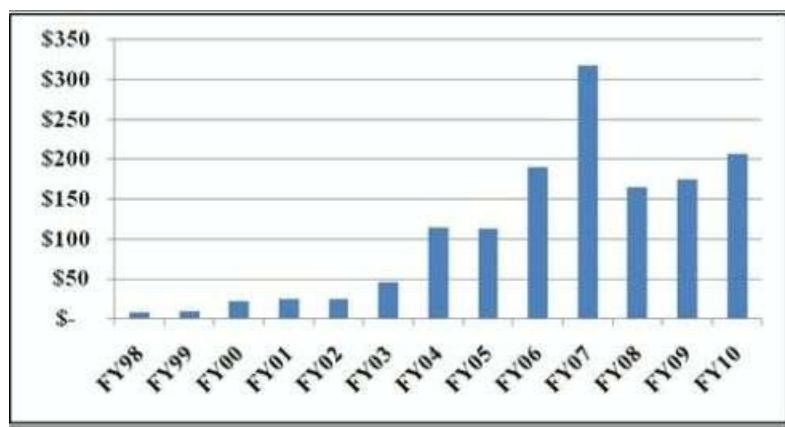
Often politically sensitive, HRDF programs have a dramatic effect on democracy promotion and personal liberties. The programs enable the U.S. to minimize human rights abuses, support democracy activists worldwide, open political space in struggling or nascent democracies and authoritarian regimes, and bring positive transnational change. Sometimes DRL's HRDF programming is the only US assistance available to citizens fighting to change their societies. When possible, however, DRL works closely with other agencies and bureaus to ensure that HRDF programs do not duplicate other assistance efforts. HRDF programs strive for self-sustainability, though a number of programs have received further funding from other resources.

## **Other DRL Funding Sources**

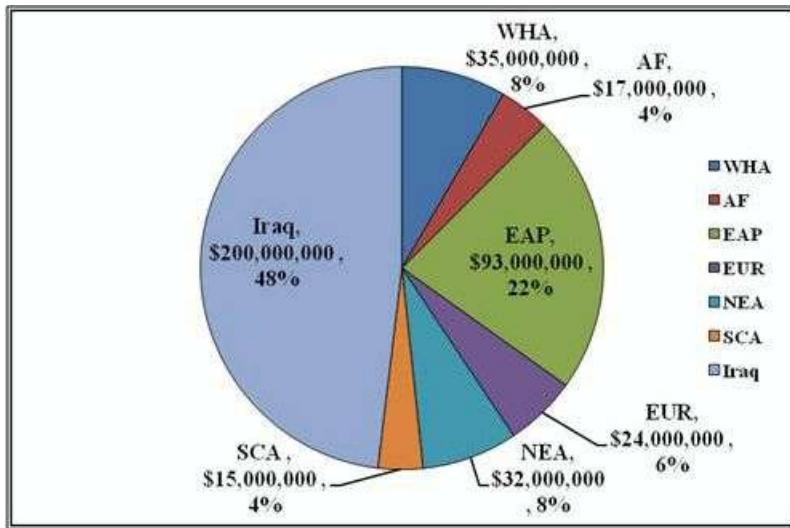
On occasion, DRL will receive additional funds to implement from Congress, Department of State Bureaus, and other U.S. agencies. These have included Congressional Supplemental appropriation, Congressional earmarks, Economic Support Funds (ESF), Partnership to Eliminate Sweatshop Production (PESP) funds, Support for Eastern Europe Democracy (SEED) funds, and funds for Iraq programs.

DRL's important efforts have brought success and, with success, DRL funding has grown from \$7.82 million in FY1998 to over \$207 million in FY2010. The vast majority of DRL programs are awarded through an open, merit-based competition. DRL finds such open competitions yield innovative ideas from a variety of partners who bring, among other things, invaluable country- and region-specific experience. <sup>(2)</sup>

Summary of DRL Administered Foreign Assistance Appropriations (in millions):



## Current DRL Programming by Region:



## Human Rights Defenders' Fund

DRL is also supporting a global human rights initiative. Defenders of human rights often risk their own and their families' lives and safety to advocate for universally recognized human rights. In response to increased pressure on human rights and democracy NGOs and activists, the State Department made defending these individuals a priority and established a \$1.5 million emergency fund. This Human Rights Defenders Fund draws upon the Bureau's expertise of protecting and assisting human rights defenders who advance democracy and promote human rights, women's rights, fair labor, anti-corruption, independent media and journalism, rule of law and other issues where defense of such issues may result in the risk of safety and/or life. Further information on the Human Rights Defenders Fund can be found at:

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2006/77837.htm>

### **Lifeline: The Embattled NGOs Assistance Fund**

In 2011 the Department of State, together with Australia, Benin, Canada, Chile, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Sweden, and the United Kingdom, launched the Lifeline: Embattled NGOs Assistance Fund. Together they have seeded the Lifeline Fund with almost \$5 million to begin a multi-year effort.

The programs of the Fund are to:

- Provide emergency assistance to embattled NGOs for needs including, legal representation, appeals, and trial monitoring; medical bills arising from abuse; transportation costs for prison visitation of incarcerated members; and replacement of equipment damaged or confiscated as a result of harassment and
- Support discrete advocacy initiatives that raise awareness of the difficult, often hostile environments in which NGOs and civil society operate and to address the barriers to their freedom of association.<sup>(3)</sup>

### **Supporting Human Rights and Democracy: The U.S. Record**

The Supporting Human Rights and Democracy: The U.S. Record (SHRD) report is submitted to the Congress by the Department of State in compliance with Section 665 of P.L. 107-228, the Fiscal Year 2003 Foreign Relations Authorization Act, which was signed into law on September

30, 2002. It requires the Department to report on actions taken by the U.S. Government to encourage respect for human rights. This report complements the annual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices.

Each year, the SHRD highlights a number of DRL-funded programs that have incredible impact, inspiring success stories, and exceed expectations. The SHRD can be found at <http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/shrd/>.

### **Regional Program Highlights**

DRL supports programming in every region of the world. Through the success of the HRDF and other funding sources, DRL programming has expanded to reach dozens of countries throughout the world. While DRL programs are typically country-specific, a number of programs are regional in focus.<sup>(4)</sup>

### **Africa Programs**

DRL sponsors 24 democracy, human rights, and labor programs in Africa. Current funding for DRL programs in Africa exceeds \$17 million. Program topics include prevention of child soldier recruitment, voter empowerment, improved and expanded media coverage, and human rights monitoring and documentation. The following are examples of the kinds of programs DRL funds in Africa.

## **Sexual and Gender Based Violence**

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, DRL grantees are working to incorporate communications technology - including satellite phones, cell phones, an early warning system, a reporting hotline, digital mapping, satellite-internet, and video-conferencing - into current programming to increase civilian protection and enhance the investigation and prosecution of sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) cases in remote areas of North and South Kivu. The project will operate an early warning system in Goma and Bukavu that will serve as a central hub for alerting authorities to potential threats or outbreaks of violence in the remote areas of Walikale, North Kivu and Fizi, South Kivu, respectively. An underlying goal of this program is to provide a wider group of Congolese officials, donors, implementers and NGOs with an example of how communications technology can increase the reach and efficacy of assistance not only with regard to SGBV, but also other areas, including health, education, vocational training and food security.

## **Bringing Media to “Information Dark” Areas**

Another DRL project created the Darfur News and Information Service (DNIS) a news, information, and education shortwave broadcast service in Arabic, Fur, Masalit, and Zaghawa for internally displaced persons and other vulnerable populations in (Northern) Sudan. DNIS promotes human rights, political dialogue, and peace processes by providing relevant, timely, and objective news, information, and educational programs for Darfur citizens so they can make informed decisions regarding issues that affect them. The project is continuing with the addition

of two full-time journalists to allow DNIS to sustain the production of daily news broadcasts and in-depth news and information programming, as well as adding Friday broadcasts and increasing the quantity of field reporting and in-depth interviews and features. In addition, the program will continue the production of a radio drama series that highlights social and civic issues in an engaging format. The innovative text feedback system, begun during the current grant, will expand its ability to obtain direct comments and information from residents of Darfur and related refugee camps, and the project may also look to utilize voice service via mobile phone.

### **Improving the rights of marginalized groups**

A DRL program in Tanzania strengthens the Tanzanian government's understanding of international human rights norms and increases the technical capacity of government officials to develop comprehensive human rights legislation that protects marginalized groups. DRL's program partner will implement four complementary activities: 1) draft legal memoranda that outline international human rights standards and the rights of marginalized groups, analyze comparative state practice, and detail methods to strengthen the Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance; 2) develop three in-depth handbooks on human rights and minority protections; 3) provide legislative assistance to the government by reviewing and analyzing existing and proposed human rights legislation; and 4) facilitate a series of workshops and consultations with the Commission on Human Rights and Good Governance to develop and enforce legal mechanisms that promote accountability and tolerance. Upcoming programs will continue to support efforts to improve rights for marginalized groups.

**Angola:** DRL's current program in Angola seeks to strengthen the local Beneguelan government. DRL's partner seeks to implement a project to improve public administration, democratic local government, and decentralization in Benguela Province. Activities focus on strengthening the participation of municipal and communal governments (MCG) in budgetary and administrative decision-making in Benguela Province; promoting collaboration by the provincial planning department and MCGs in administrative planning and participatory budget design; and integrating good governance practices within current government institutions.

**Burundi:** DRL's current program in Burundi provides technical assistance to anti-corruption institutions. DRL's partner works to provide technical assistance to anti-corruption institutions in Burundi through the promotion of international standards and need-based technical assistance. The project will develop the audit and monitoring skills of the Ministry of Good Governance and enhance their ability to identify and report on public financial management; and increase anti-corruption awareness and monitoring capacities within civil society to bolster public demand for and support of well-crafted anti-corruption laws and procedures that will move government towards the responsible management of public funds for the benefit of all Burundian citizens.

**Cote d'Ivoire:** DRL's current programs in Cote d'Ivoire work towards election reforms and fighting corruption. One DRL-partner works to provide technical advice to key stakeholders on reforms to the voter registration and electoral processes as well as capacity building support for the Commission Electorale Independante (CEI). Activities include roundtable discussions on voter registration and electoral framework issues, a strategic planning seminar for election

administrators, and training in basic election administration skills for the Commission Electorale Independante (CEI).

Another program partner seeks to build awareness and capacity to combat low-level, pervasive corruption and human rights abuses through highly targeted awareness and mobilization campaigns. The implementer reaches groups particularly vulnerable to extortion attempts through specialized education and training, and reinforcement of support to victims of abuses; builds on existing relationships with Ministry of Health officials and local health workers to reduce onsite inflation of official prices for drugs and services at hospitals and health centers; trains check point guards and officials and collaborate with the General Secretariat in charge of Good Governance and the Inspector General's Office of the Finance Ministry to fight corruption by stigmatizing the practice of requiring bribes at checkpoints.

**Democratic Republic of the Congo:** DRL's current programs in the Democratic Republic of the Congo seek to stem gender-based violence, end impunity and provide capacity building to the justice sector and local NGOs. One implementer works to stem gender based violence and end impunity in the DRC. To achieve this goal, the organization establishes a legal aid clinic to represent victims of gender based violence; trains members of the judges' association to improve its capacity to adjudicate gender based crimes; and builds the capacity of the Bar Association to provide continuing legal education on gender based crimes to its members as well as develop its legal capacity to deliver legal aid to victims. Working with both national and international

NGOs, the implementer will identify victims of gender based crime and provide legal aid and education to victims and their communities.

Another DRL-grantee provides capacity building support for the justice sector and NGOs in the DRC. The goal of the project is to support the democratic process in the DRC by advancing the protection of human rights in key areas of the justice sector and bolstering the efforts of effective civil society groups that are committed to building a democratic society. Activities focus on the provision of technical assistance to government ministries and personnel and works with civil society organizations to improve implementation of human rights guarantees for those citizens seeking access to justice. The implementer develops training courses in human rights for judges and police, trains facilitators to conduct the courses, provides advice to the Ministry of Justice and civil society groups on international and regional treaty monitoring, and organizes a high-level forum in which human rights defenders and policy makers discuss human rights priorities and policy changes.

**Ethiopia:** DRL's current programs in Ethiopia work towards impartial trial monitoring, alternative dispute resolution, expanding constructive dialogue and women's issues. One DRL-partner works to train Ethiopian legal professionals in conflict management and dispute resolution techniques under the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) model in order to improve the capacity and independence of the Ethiopian judiciary. The implementer relies heavily on a previous program model which trained Kenyan legal professionals on ADR. The program leverages some of the Kenyan trainers to train Ethiopian participants.

**Guinea:** DRL initiatives in Guinea focus on civic education, political participation and political election journalism. One program in Guinea focuses on political and election journalism. DRL's partner organization will teach print and radio journalists from four regions of Guinea on how to cover elections with an emphasis on "citizen journalism" (citizen issues as the focus of a campaign instead of the candidates' agendas). The organization will use teams of international and Guinean trainers and offer training in media business management to independent newspapers and new independent broadcast media organizations. The journalists will interview citizens about issues that are important to them and hold public roundtables for citizen input.

Another DRL program in Guinea works to educate civil society groups (community leaders, women & youth) on their democratic and voter-participation rights; train community leaders to manage affairs transparently; provide media campaigns and increased civic awareness through community radio; and train youth and women groups managing radio stations, programming, and marketing. The goals for the project include: increased voter participation, particularly that of youth and women, in 2007 legislative elections; increased transparency and accountability in community development and planning; and overcoming points of civil unrest and political destabilization that may result.

**Liberia:** DRL programs in Liberia focus on combating impunity and strengthening the Liberian Truth Commission. DRL's partner will support and strengthen the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC). Activities include: providing consultant services to the TRC on methods for

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