



## Transparency Watch

the e-bulletin of the anti-corruption movement

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### INTERVIEW OF THE MONTH



Hilary Benn, Secretary of State for Development, UK

The Honourable Hilary Benn, Minister of Development for the United Kingdom is well known for his outspoken views on corruption, notably on the issue of World Bank aid conditionality. Transparency Watch speaks with him about what the UK is doing to tackle the supply side of bribery, how to encourage people to act more ethically and his message to the anti-corruption movement on International Anti-Corruption Day. >> read more

### SPOTLIGHT STORY



NGO Advocacy campaigns

To mark International Anti-Corruption Day, Transparency International has released a striking and cinematic new television spot. This month, Transparency Watch looks at how NGOs are revolutionising how they communicate to reach new audiences. >> read more

### ANTI-CORRUPTION WORK AROUND THE WORLD



The presidents of eight Central American countries met at the 12th IACC in November to sign the Guatemala Declaration for a Corruption-Free Region. >> read more



TI Brazil's election monitoring website Excelencias won the prestigious Esso Journalism Award for its contribution to the press. >> read more



The recent Forum for the Future conference in Jordan brought together foreign ministers from the Group of Eight (G8) nations and from the Broader Middle East and North Africa region. >> read more

### CORRUPTION IN THE NEWS



Former Romanian prime minister Nastase is set to go on trial this month for bribe-taking and other charges. >> read more



Corruption was a key issue in the United States midterm elections last November, according to international media. >> read more



Police launch a corruption inquiry into Siemens, Europe's largest engineering company. >> read more

### NEWS FROM THE ANTI-CORRUPTION MOVEMENT

Reports from Transparency International's national chapters, members and Secretariat. Click here to read this month's highlights. >> read more

### CORRUPTION IN QUOTES

"A cash bribe put in an envelope is a thing of the past. Civil servants now get payments to their accounts in foreign banks..." >> read more

### COMING UP

Upcoming events of interest to the anti-corruption movement in December 2006 and January 2007. >> read more

## INTERVIEW OF THE MONTH

Hilary Benn, Secretary of State for Development, UK

By Amber Poroznuik



This month Transparency Watch spoke with the Honourable Mr. Hilary Benn, Secretary of State for Development in the United Kingdom. Appointed last summer by British Prime Minister Tony Blair to be the minister responsible for fighting international corruption, Mr. Benn is well known for his outspoken views on corruption and aid.

**Transparency Watch (TW):** *You have recently been quite vocal on the issue of World Bank aid conditionality. How would the anti-corruption framework you envision compare to the one on the table at the September World Bank/ International Monetary Fund meetings in Singapore?*

**Hilary Benn (HB):** There are two issues here – fighting corruption and conditionality. Firstly, we had a good discussion in Singapore of how to improve governance and fight corruption in order to make faster progress in reducing poverty. We welcomed the Bank's response and agreed that corruption is the product of bad governance; although linked, they're not the same thing.

The paper tabled in Singapore sets out a framework for taking the Bank's work forward as this, and further, consultations are now underway. We also agreed that the Bank's Investigations Department (INT) should complete investigations as quickly as possible and it should be more transparent in how it operates.

I strongly believe that progress on governance and corruption has to come from within each country, with donors giving support according to their strengths, but not doing it all themselves or simply transferring models from rich to poor countries. As long as governments are determined to deal with the problem, donors need to work with, not around them. But where governments aren't willing to tackle the problem, we will act to protect our own money, but we mustn't turn our backs on poor people because of corruption among politicians and officials.

You also asked about conditionality. Last year, the World Bank adopted new good practice principles on the conditions it attaches to aid. Fifty million Euros of our support to the Bank depends on it implementing these new principles. I asked for the evidence I need to release that money and I have just received the Bank's report, which I'm now considering.

**TW:** *The article How Much is a Seat on the Security Council Worth? Foreign Aid and Bribery at the United Nations by Ilyana Kuziemko and Eric Werker (recently featured in The Economist and upcoming in the Journal of Political Economy) found that a country's US aid increases by 59 percent and in UN aid by 8 percent when it rotates onto the UN Security Council as a non-permanent member. This effect was found to have increased during years in which key diplomatic events take place, when members' votes should be especially valuable. Do you regard this behaviour of using aid as a political mechanism to influence decisions in international organisations as corruption?*

**HB:** While the article makes an interesting read, it's too simple to conclude that donors increase aid to countries because they are sitting on the UN Security Council. Such increases in aid, for example, may come about because developing countries are themselves using the additional leverage they have at that time.

I don't believe that aid should be used to buy votes or to achieve unrelated political decisions. That's why I have implemented a strong aid conditionality policy for the UK, which sets out our position. The UK has three conditions that it places on its aid: first, that it helps reduce poverty and reach the Millennium Development Goals; second, that human rights and other international obligations are upheld; and finally, that financial management systems are in place to ensure accountability and avoid corruption.

**TW:** *You have stated on a number of occasions that you are serious about tackling the supply side of bribery. As a signatory of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Convention, bribery of foreign officials by British companies and nationals is illegal. How many prosecutions have been undertaken in Britain since the ratification of the OECD Convention in 1999?*

**HB:** In the UK, several cases are under investigation, but we have not yet prosecuted any. Indeed, only a handful of OECD Convention countries have so far brought successful prosecutions, so we all have to do more – where there is the evidence of

course. We are not complacent even though Transparency International's Bribe Payers' Index (which ranks the likelihood of companies paying or offering bribes in their business activities) places the UK in a strong sixth place on the list of 30 developed and emerging economies. We know that there is still work to do.

To enable us better to investigate cases, the UK Department for International Development (DFID) is funding a new International Corruption Group. It will bring together the experience of the Serious Fraud Office and Serious Organised Crime Agency with new capacity in the Metropolitan Police and the City of London Police to strengthen the UK's capacity to investigate corruption occurring between developed and developing countries.

**TW:** *What are some of the challenges that lie ahead for the new International Corruption Group set up to investigate allegations of money laundering in the UK and bribery by UK businesses overseas? How do you propose to measure its success?*

**HB:** Through the new International Corruption Group, the Metropolitan Police will have more scope to investigate and recover the proceeds of money laundering by Politically Exposed Persons through the UK's financial system. The City of London Police will also have more capacity to investigate and bring to successful prosecution, cases of foreign bribery by UK businesses and nationals operating in developing countries.

By their nature, such investigations are time-consuming since they often require the involvement of many different bodies, including the authorities of the countries where such activities are alleged to have taken place. Hard evidence takes time to gather. It may take two years or more to bring cases to prosecution depending on their complexity. What is more, we cannot talk about the cases, so part of our challenge is to find other ways to measure success.

There are two main ways of monitoring and measuring. The first is 'hard results' such as cases investigated and successfully prosecuted, and assets restrained, recovered and returned to the country from which they were stolen. The second is the way in which tackling corruption internationally builds relationships between countries, national stakeholders, the local media and civil society groups. These secondary effects will make a lasting impact on corruption.

**TW:** *What changes can we expect to see the British Export Credit Guarantee Department require of companies to help tackle the supply side of bribery?*

**HB:** The Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD) fully implemented the 2006 OECD 'action statement' on bribery and export credits in July 2006. The action statement is the latest step by OECD countries to avoid giving official support to export contracts tainted by bribery. It stipulates the minimum standards that members of the OECD Working Party on Export Credits and Credit Guarantees must have in place in respect to the anti-bribery and anti-corruption procedures of their Export Credit Agency.

The 2006 action statement represents considerable progress from the 2000 version. It tightens existing arrangements, improves transparency and makes useful progress towards levelling the playing field. This means more zealous standards for export contractors, including non-bribery certifications from exporters. It also requires law enforcement authorities to be notified whenever there is credible evidence of bribery in an export credit transaction.

**TW:** *You have been vocal in pointing out that not enough has been done on the trade front – what more needs to be done? With the World Trade Organisation's (WTO) Doha rounds stalled, what can the international community realistically expect to see on this front, and when?*

**HB:** You're right that I'm extremely disappointed that we have not been able to agree to a fairer global trading system so far. But the UK is committed to a successful outcome that enables poorer countries to trade their way out of poverty. Ultimately we believe that trade reform will offer developing countries both better prospects of selling their own produce and the chance to buy the goods and services that they need on better terms. We have to keep up the pressure and break this log-jam. It's not in anyone's interest for the Doha Development Round to fail.

Just because the Doha Round currently remains delayed, we will not give up on our attempts to create a freer and fairer trade system for developing countries. There are a number of areas where we are continuing to seek progress. Take Aid for Trade, which is vital for any country to trade effectively and have more simplistic, liberal rules of origin. There are also Economic Partnership Agreements, which are negotiations between the European Union (EU) and six regional groups of African, Caribbean and Pacific countries. Properly designed, they too can help development.

We also have a window of opportunity following the US mid-term elections to continue working with the US, the EU and other WTO members on making real progress in the Doha negotiations.

**TW:** *What is the British Government's policy on debarment? Do you make the lists of debarred companies public?*

**HB:** It is now enshrined in law that purchasing authorities must exclude individuals who have been convicted of specific offences including fraud and bribery as set out in the current public procurement Directive covering public sector contracts. The UK implemented this Directive on 31 January 2006 and the Office of Government Commerce (OGC) has provided guidance notes relating to its regulations.

At present, it is not clear exactly how this is being implemented across the Member States including whether the exclusion is being applied retrospectively, for how long the exclusion is being applied, and whether the terms of the Directive (and I'm referring specifically to Article 45 (1) which concerns public sector contracts) apply to parties outside the EU. The OGC set up a small Working Group with representatives from industry, central government and NGOs to consider these and other implementation issues. Transparency International is represented in this Working Group which has met several times to work on the interpretation of the Article.

The UK has actively pursued a better understanding of the Article's implementation across the EU with the Commission, and in response, the Commission has circulated a questionnaire to all Member States seeking greater clarification. We expect to learn the results of this exercise in the New Year.

The UK Government doesn't maintain a blacklist of companies or individuals convicted of offences related to public procurement. But each contracting authority seeks information from potential suppliers on such convictions as part of the procurement process. Where there are sufficient grounds to believe an individual concerned with the procurement process has been convicted of a relevant offence, the contracting authority can apply to the competent authorities for verification of the conviction and, if proven, exclude the tenderer from submitting their application.

**TW:** *If, as you have stated, the challenge for national and international policy will increasingly be trying to find ways to influence behaviour and change attitudes, how can one, in your opinion, encourage people to be more ethical?*

**HB:** The public pressure behind last year's Make Poverty History campaign demonstrated the support in the UK to help the world's poor. More people also seem to want to make ethical choices in the products they buy and in their lifestyles. By buying fair trade products, for example, we can be sure that stringent social and ethical standards – including a decent day's pay for the producer – are being met. This is astonishingly powerful because you don't have to wait for someone to make fairer trading rules, you can do something yourself today. If people want to question whether the clothes they buy are produced under ethical standards, they can find out which companies have signed up to the Ethical Trading Initiative ([www.ethicaltrade.org](http://www.ethicaltrade.org)) or ask if there are other safeguards to protect the workers in the factories.

Climate change is another issue on which we can all do our bit. As the Stern Review proves, unless we take radical action now, we face rising sea levels, droughts, hurricanes, heat waves, glacial melting, floods, crop failure and forced migration. All of this will hit developing countries the hardest. Yes, we need new international agreements to reduce emissions, but it's something we can all contribute to as individuals. I think the message to get across on all these issues is that collectively we can make a difference.

**TW:** *What message would you like to send to the anti-corruption movement on 9 December 2006, International Anti-Corruption Day?*

**HB:** We all have a big job to do. Tackling corruption wherever we find it – whether here or abroad – is essential to send a strong message to those that extort, corrupt and deceive that it will not be tolerated. Together we can make progress and I welcome the efforts of the anti-corruption movement for raising awareness of the issue. But awareness is one thing; action is another. And it is down to all of us to do something, not just on one day, but every day. The best way forward is to strengthen the institutions of government, promote better transparency and accountability and give a voice to those who are hit hardest by corruption – the world's poorest – so that they can hold their governments to account. I pay tribute to those that have done much to put a spotlight on corruption – people such as John Githongo, who turned the world's attention to corruption in Kenya so that the government there has been forced to do something about it. And I pay tribute to Transparency International for the work it is doing, challenging corruption, giving hope to its millions of victims, and building momentum for the anti-corruption movement. Let's make every day Anti-Corruption Day.

**SPOTLIGHT STORY**

NGO Advocacy campaigns

By Jennifer Williams



Under the glare of a surgeon's lamp, gloved hands sterilise a needle. A small child flinches as surgical steel touches skin; the sound of cold metal grates the nerves. Seconds later, the child is marked for life, and the image fades from the screen.

If you thought you knew what to expect from NGO commercials, think again.

With a cinematic feel and an unswervingly calm voiceover, Transparency International's new television advertisement for International Anti-Corruption Day hits hard. In the advert, a young child, clearly not more than 11 or 12 years old, is being tattooed. The figure she is branded with - 115 000 000 - represents the number of children who lose out on education as a result of corruption. The tattoo intends to get under the viewer's skin too, and the message is clear: Corruption marks children, families and societies for life.

In the past few years, Transparency International has released a commercial to mark the United Nation's International Anti-Corruption Day on 9 December. The challenge for TI, and other non-profit organisations, is to relay a complex message on a shoestring budget. And with the number of other UN International Days currently totalling 61, how does an organisation cut through the clutter to make the greatest impact?

"We wanted this ad to be emotionally powerful and to really stick in people's minds," says Jesse Garcia, co-ordinator of the campaign. "That is why we went for a more cinematic look, and something with a bit of shock value. It takes a hard-hitting look at the long-term costs of corruption for its victims."

Stepping outside development imagery familiar to the NGO community may be progressive, but it is also risky. The publicity generated by controversy has to be weighed against the risk of upsetting supporters. But Garcia is confident the darkness of the campaign is justified and works in its favour.

"I think those who have come face-to-face with corruption in its most brutal forms would not find this portrayal excessive. Corruption hurts people," he says. "I don't think we need to dilute this message."

Increasingly, NGOs and charities are daring to shock their audience, and to use new forms of marketing. Whether it is TI's 'marked for life' advertisement, a comedy cartoon or an animated banner, if it sparks conversation and can easily be transmitted by email or linked on a blog, then it is likely to be effective.

Many of these new NGO campaigns fall under the broad heading of viral marketing, or 'virals'. Viral marketing is based on the idea that people will pass on interesting or funny content, and in doing so, spread information or brand awareness in much the same way as a computer virus spreads. 'Virals' are thought to have started with the email provider Hotmail in the 1990s. Hotmail's practice of adding its own advertisements to the bottom of senders' outgoing emails allowed its reach to extend exponentially.

Speaking on viral marketing, TI's Fundraising Co-ordinator Conrad Zellman notes the risk such promotion could entail. "You need something funny or extreme, and that's a gamble." These types of campaigns, however, also can be remarkably effective, leading many civil society groups to take the risk.

The environmental group Greenpeace wanted to put pressure on the Canadian government, who it saw as blocking a UN moratorium on deep-sea bottom trawling. Canadian Minister for Fisheries and Oceans Loyola Hearn had announced that the country would not be supporting a blanket ban on such trawling, and, to Greenpeace, this was a major blow to the moratorium itself. Their marketing team hit on the idea of producing a short film based on a spoof of the song "Blame Canada" from *South Park: the movie* and

a viral campaign was born.

The short film is a very effective parody of the American television cartoon series South Park, with all the usual swearing and bickering, and ended with the modified South Park song. Despite being nearly 10 years old, South Park is still controversial, upsetting everyone from politicians to the Catholic Church to Hollywood actors on a regular basis. So, is attaching a serious campaign to something that polarises the public tricky to pull off?

"No, not really," says Sari Tolvanen, the campaign's co-ordinator. "There was such strong support for the moratorium from both the scientific community and governments that strong message was expected and needed."

Greenpeace's strong – if potentially risky – tactic appeared to work. The video was aired on MTV, and received generous press coverage in Canada. In the end, the Canadian government did end up compromising on the deep-sea moratorium, although as Tolvanen notes, it is impossible to know how much is owed to the campaign.

Another benefit of the film was its low cost. According to Tolvanen, it spread further than any other aspect of their bottom trolling campaign and, for the least amount of money.

This smart use of web marketing has had a major impact on the way many non-profit organisations communicate with those outside their sector. If a message about a deep-sea moratorium – not the sexiest subject – can end up on MTV as a result, then virals are genuinely revolutionary.

Clearly NGOs, charities and activist groups deal with heavy subject matter that viral marketing alone cannot adequately express. But alternative methods such as viral marketing or controversial advertisements can be an important dimension to a larger campaign. In October, Amnesty International revived its famous Secret Policeman's Ball, a celebrity-studded comedy and music event that the organisation has sporadically organised since the 1970s. This year, Amnesty added another dimension to the event including blogs, podcasts, banner downloads and virals into their marketing.

"This was the first time we have done it in such a comprehensive way," says Amnesty International Press Officer Sarah Greene. "The viral films were very well circulated: the podcast reached number 1 in the UK podcast charts."

Amnesty, like TI, has a complex set of ideas to promote. The Secret Policeman's Ball has been an incredibly effective way of giving the issue of human rights added sparkle. But the use of snappy web techniques proved to add even more. Much as the use of celebrity endorsement is an effective tactic, providing banners for people to download to their websites and gossiping about the Ball's progress in a blog is likely to have reached more people than the concert itself.

Like virals, the attraction of downloadable banners is in their simplicity. A web banner is just that – an advert at the top of a webpage in the shape of a banner, sometimes with eye-catching animation. Providing these as downloads means that anyone can easily download the banner and put it on their blog – a very effective, cheap way of spreading the word. This is something Amnesty found very successful - people who would not usually devote much time to human rights became exposed to the group's message, through a simple form of new technology.

Accessibility certainly needs to be maintained where NGOs are concerned. The issues are complex and organisations are coming up with new and innovative ways to translate their key messages to different audiences in different ways. Much of Transparency International's work involves technical codes and international conventions – areas where public understanding and interest are questionable. These valuable tools need to be translated into a bigger picture to make them meaningful to the general public.

This is the way TI's Anti-Corruption Day television spot tackles its subject. Corruption is such an abstract concept – okay, corruption hurts people, but explaining how that is tangible can be difficult. Corruption keeps children from attending school. That is something that will leave its mark on a child, a family and a society for life. As the image of a brutally marked child fades, a powerful message takes its place.

"We want to reach people who will never hear or care about conventions, procurement or codes of conduct," says Garcia. "But there needs to be an understanding that corruption hurts people, that it can be stopped, and that there are people out there who are already fighting it. That's the real message of hope."

Think you can't fight corruption? Think again!

Go to [www.transparency.org](http://www.transparency.org) and click on the banner to see the television spot.

This area provides highlights of the valuable work of the anti-corruption movement, championing a world free of corruption.

This month highlights the following stories:

- [Guatemala Declaration for a Corruption-Free Region](#)
- [Excelencias website wins prestigious Esso Journalism Prize](#)
- [Plan for action at Forum for the Future](#)

#### Guatemala Declaration for a Corruption-Free Region



The presidents and official representatives of eight Central American countries met on 15 November at the 12th International Anti-Corruption Conference (IACC) in Guatemala to sign Guatemala Declaration for a Corruption-Free Region. It includes commitments to reach concrete outcomes in the fight against corruption by 2010, such as strengthening access to public information legal frameworks.

Transparency International (TI) invited signatory governments (Belize, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama) to use the declaration as a tool to foster the definition of sound national anti-corruption policies in their respective countries and to commit to implementing the Inter-American Convention against Corruption and the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

The declaration is an important public demonstration of their commitment to fight corruption. TI national chapters and allied civil society organisations in Guatemala, Nicaragua, Honduras, Panama and the Dominican Republic agreed to monitor its implementation to make sure governments keep their promises.

#### Excelencias website wins prestigious Esso Journalism Prize



With the aim of helping voters make an informed decision in electing Brazilian Chamber of Deputies in October, TI Brazil created the website Excelencias ("Your Excellencies") with information on the past performance of candidates seeking re-election.

The website - [www.excelencias.org.br](http://www.excelencias.org.br) - received wide attention from the media and the public – in total there were more than 7,5 million visitors to the site from its launch August to the elections in October. The website hosted profiles of 568 candidates. This information was systematically reproduced by many newspapers as well as TV and radio networks in Brazil.

The Excelencias website was one of the winners of the most recent edition of the Esso Journalism Award – the most prestigious journalism award in Brazil- under the category "Contributions to the Press". TI Brazil will work with the United Nations Democracy Fund in 2007 to make Excelencias a permanent election monitoring tool and to expand its focus beyond the lower house of parliament to include the senate and a number of state assemblies.

#### Plan for action at Forum for the Future



On 30 November and 01 December, a Transparency International (TI) delegation attended the Forum for the Future conference at the Dead Sea in Jordan. The conference brought together foreign ministers from the Group of Eight (G8) nations and from the Broader Middle East and North Africa region.

Transparency International's delegation included representatives from TI Algeria, TI Jordan, TI Lebanon, TI Morocco, TI Palestine and staff from the TI secretariat in Berlin. The delegation presented an Action Plan at the meeting, which focused on three points for action for government. First, to establish a monitoring mechanism for the United Nations Convention against Corruption implementation; second, to strengthen anti-money laundering legislation and procedures; and third, to introduce whistleblower protection measures.

Broad support for the Action Plan was demonstrated by the Chairman's summary at the close of the meeting, which backed the recommendations. For more information on the meeting, please contact David Koschel at: [dkoschel@transparency.org](mailto:dkoschel@transparency.org).

Corruption stories of note in the news this month:

- [Romania's ex-prime minister to be tried for bribery and abuse of office](#)
- [Corruption in minds of American voters](#)
- [Siemens investigated for bribery and embezzlement](#)

#### Romania's ex-prime minister to be tried for bribery and abuse of office

by Jennifer Williams



Former Romanian prime minister Adrian Nastase is set to go on trial in December, accused of bribe-taking, blackmail and abuse of public office. Nastase, who was prime minister from 2000 to 2004, denies the charges.

Nastase is accused of receiving more than €1.3 million in bribes, "including merchandise illegally shipped from China, from an official in charge of civil and industrial construction", the *International Herald Tribune* writes.

In addition, the *International Herald Tribune* reports that he is accused of "receiving illegal campaign contributions worth € 817 000 from a printing company and a construction company".

According to the *BBC*, the case "relates to the building of an apartment in Bucharest". *BBC* notes that Nastase was "forced to step down" from the leadership of the opposition Social Democrat Party last year, when the investigation opened, adding that "Correspondents say the Romanian authorities have been anxious to deal with allegations of corruption as the country prepares to join the EU".

The *Southeast Europe Times* notes that Nastase is the most important Romanian politician to face such charges. The paper quotes Nastase's belief that he is the victim of "big, dirty political manoeuvres", and his claim that "an entire system of prosecutors, policemen and people from the secret services was deployed in order to make up the case".

#### Corruption in minds of American voters

By Jennifer Williams



Corruption was a key issue in the defeat of the Republican Party in the United States midterm elections, according to international media. Many reports claimed that exit polls from the 7 November elections showed that corruption scandals were at the forefront of voters' minds.

"The Iraq war hurt Republican candidates in the midterm elections, but corruption and scandal were bigger problems for them," wrote *Time* magazine; "Three-fourths of voters said corruption and scandal were important to their votes."

*CNN* exit-poll interviewers asked voters in close to 1 000 precincts to "describe themselves and their opinions on important issues." *CNN* reported that "when asked which issue was extremely important to their vote, more voters said corruption and ethics in government than any other issue".

The *International Herald Tribune* listed various scandals from the last two years as contributing to public fears of corruption, including the "influence-peddling scandal tied to disgraced lobbyist Jack Abramoff". These, wrote the *International Herald Tribune*, allowed the Democrats to claim that "the Republican-led house had lost its ethical bearings".

#### Siemens investigated for bribery and embezzlement

by Jennifer Williams



More than 30 offices and homes have been searched by police in a corruption inquiry into Siemens, Europe's largest engineering company. Premises across Germany and Switzerland were raided, including the office of the chief executive, Klaus Kleinfeld.

*The Guardian* reported that a prosecutor confirmed the chief executive's office was "among those searched", but that "Mr Kleinfeld was a witness, not a suspect, in the case".

*Der Spiegel* reported that Munich prosecutors are investigating "a total of ten Siemens employees, plus two acquaintances who were not Siemens workers". They are alleged to have diverted company funds "to front companies and bank accounts in Switzerland and Liechtenstein", wrote *Der Spiegel*.

According to *Deutsche Welle*, "Prosecutors are investigating whether the money was part of a slush fund used to bribe overseas contractors to place orders, including a contract for security systems at the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens".

Mr Kleinfeld has, according to *The Times*, "pledged to punish corrupt employees", his company promising to set up "a special anti-corruption taskforce".

## NEWS FROM THE ANTI-CORRUPTION MOVEMENT

### Annual Membership Meeting in Guatemala

Transparency International (TI) held its Annual Membership Meeting (AMM) on 13 and 14 November in Guatemala City, bringing together 230 participants from nearly 100 countries. Over one and half days, the TI movement discussed key issues policy development in TI, the communication challenges in TI, and preventing corruption in development aid and humanitarian assistance. The morning of 13 November was dedicated to small group discussions on TI's strategy for the future, as a key step in the 2010 Strategic Review currently underway.

At the formal Annual Membership Meeting on 14 November, TI chapters elected Nancy Boswell (President of TI USA) and Devendra Raj Panday (a democracy activist and former Finance Minister of Nepal, who formerly served on TI's Advisory Council and as Chair of TI Nepal) to the TI Board of Directors. The terms will run for three years. The formal AMM also approved a plan to update TI's governance instruments, which includes: changing the Charter provisions on casual vacancies on the Board; clarifying the conflict of interest policy; and amending the national chapter accreditation policy.

### Getting to Guatemala

The difficulties faced by some people in getting to Transparency International's (TI) Annual Membership Meeting (AMM) and IACC in Guatemala is a testament to their dedication to the anti-corruption movement. You think you had it bad? Missed planes, delays, lost luggage... Read about the journey of delegates from Liberia and Palestine.

G. Jasper Cumme, III, the Director of the Centre for Transparency and Accountability in Liberia (TI's contact group in Liberia), changed planes five times and covered half the globe to get to the TI AMM and IACC in Guatemala. He travelled from Monrovia to Dakar, Dakar to Brussels, Brussels to London, London to Chicago, Chicago to Houston, and finally Houston to Guatemala City. In addition to losing his baggage in Brussels, he had to sleep overnight in the Houston airport terminal to wait for his last connecting flight.

Delegates from Palestine also had to deal with five different countries to get to Guatemala. The difficulties of Dr. Azmi Shuaibi of TI Palestine and Mr. Abdelrahman Abu Arafef of the Arab Thought Forum (a coalition member of TI Palestine) began even before they stepped foot on the plane. They first had to travel to Tel Aviv, Israel to reach the closest embassy of Guatemala. They then had to deal with the Foreign Ministry of Guatemala to allow the Israeli embassy to grant the visas as the applicants were not Israeli. When it was time to leave for Guatemala City, Dr. Shuaibi and Mr. Arafef had to travel to Jordan by land to catch their first flight, as it was not possible to fly out of the Palestinian Authority. They flew to Paris, then from Paris to Mexico City, then Mexico City to Guatemala City.

### TI seeks to expand its Advocacy and Legal Advice Centres

Transparency International (TI) is seeking to expand its network of Advocacy and Legal Advice Centres (ALAC) in Europe and Central Asia as well as outside of the region. The ALACs offer a grassroots solution to addressing corruption where it occurs by providing advocacy and advice directly to people who have experienced corruption in their daily lives.

With the aim of expansion in mind, TI held a workshop in Baku, Azerbaijan from 1- 4 December to provide an introduction to the objectives and functioning of ALACs to 19 national chapters from around the world. Chapters who are already operating ALACs shared their experiences and lessons learned and the ALAC in Azerbaijan provided workshop participants with a tour of the centre and organised a meeting between participants and ALAC employees as well as some past users of the centre.

Participants left the workshop enthusiastic about opportunities to open up ALACs in their home countries. For more information on this workshop or the ALAC programme, please contact Ben Elers at [belers@transparency.org](mailto:belers@transparency.org).

### **TI's Forest Integrity Networks hosts e-workshop**

Transparency International's Forest Integrity Network (FIN) held an internet-based workshop on corruption, business, and the forest sector from 1 to 8 November. Thirty-six participants representing five continents registered to use the workshop forum, and around 50 more browsed the forum as guests. Publishing companies Time, Inc. and Axel Springer posted links to their work on responsible purchasing of forest products, as did the worldwide package manufacturer Tetra Pak. Susan Coté-Freeman of TI-USA and the TI Secretariat posted information on the Business Principles for Countering Bribery. For information on the outcome of the workshop, please contact Andrea Figari at [afigari@transparency.org](mailto:afigari@transparency.org).

### **Technology to improve local government**

Transparencia Venezuela (TI's national chapter in Venezuela) organised a conference called Expo Transparencia, which focused on technologies for efficient and transparent municipal government. The conference, held in September 2006, united mayors from all municipalities of the country, as well as foreign mayors, academics, experts, and private firms to exchange experiences with an eye to reproducing successful outcomes.

Over the course of the three-day conference, 37 examples of best practice were presented. These examples provided information on new technologies and applications developed to improve transparency in local government in areas such as: Government budget, public contracting, procedures and norms, access to information, civil society participation, systems of control and accountability, public services, electronic government and public management.

Additionally, the expo featured 35 exhibits from private companies, public institutions and universities, which presented their products and services, including a series of technological hardware and software programs for monitoring the performance of mayors, as well as new tools and systems for improving public management. The most discussed product at the conference was electronic government – an online tool that enables a stronger link between government and citizens. For more information (in Spanish) please visit: [www.transparencia.org.ve/evento\\_2006.php](http://www.transparencia.org.ve/evento_2006.php)

### **TI elected to Freedom of Information Advocates Network Steering Committee**

In November the TI secretariat programme manager for access to information, Andrea Figari, was elected to the Steering Committee of the international Freedom of Information (FOI) Advocates Network. Formed in 2002 to facilitate the exchange information and cooperation on common projects between civil society organisations, the network comprises over 80 member organisations throughout the world, including several TI national chapters. This forum for collaboration helps civil society organisations with campaigning, advocacy, and fundraising, and works to form coalitions to deal with FOI issues at both the regional and global level. For more information, visit [www.foiadvocates.net](http://www.foiadvocates.net), or contact Andrea Figari at [afigari@transparency.org](mailto:afigari@transparency.org).

### **Huguette Labelle visits Panamá, Perú and Chile**

Following her participation at the 12th International Anti-Corruption Conference (IACC) in Guatemala in November, TI Chair Huguette Labelle took the opportunity to visit three more Latin American countries: Panamá, Perú and Chile. In Panamá, she met with TI Panamá and the Foundation for the Development of Civil Freedom, as well as the President of Panamá, Martín Torrijos. She applauded his signature of the Declaration for a Corruption-Free region at the IACC in Guatemala but encouraged him to confront problems such as the lack of transparency in the financing of the electoral campaigns. Huguette Labelle also took the time to discuss transparency in public contracting with the Authorities of the Panamá Canal.

Huguette Labelle then travelled to Perú and met with Proética (TI's chapter in Peru), the National Confederation of Private Enterprises (CONFIEP) and Dr. Magallanes, the winner of the 2006 Integrity Award. In Chile, Huguette visited a school where a Pilot Project in reducing corruption in education by Chile Transparente, (TI's chapter in Chile) has been launched and met with the President of the Supreme Court about judicial corruption.

She also attended a reception hosted by the President of the Republic, in the National Palace la Moneda, which included a ceremony to increase information on the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

### **12th IACC workshop tackles corruption in sports**

The 12th International Anti-Corruption Conference (IACC) in Guatemala featured a workshop on the business of corruption in sports. Led by Sylvia Schenk- a lawyer, a former Olympic athlete and a member of TI Germany - the workshop featured presentations by Anne Schwoebel (TI Switzerland Managing Director), Henri Roemer (Advisor to Union of European Football Associations' (UEFA) Executive Committee) and Jens Andersen (Director of Play the Game). Participants stressed the social

and economic importance of sports and the necessity to tackle the many forms corruption takes in sports, notably money laundering and trafficking of young athletes. The workshop raised great interest and paved the way for greater cooperation between Play the Game, Transparency International, and UEFA.

**CORRUPTION IN QUOTES**

"A cash bribe put in an envelope is a thing of the past. Civil servants now get payments to their accounts in foreign banks (in exchange) for granting groundless privileges and the right to using state assets."

Rashid Nurgaliyev, Russian Interior Minister, on civil service corruption in his country.  
*International Herald Tribune*; Global; 16 November

"A government can hardly be seen as a credible partner in any international transparency initiative when it repeatedly arrests the country's foremost anticorruption campaigners. This is a crucial test for the World Bank's new anti-corruption strategy."

Arvind Ganesan, director of the Business and Human Rights Program at Human Rights Watch, on the arrest of anti-corruption activist Christian Mounzeo in Congo Brazzaville.  
*Reuters*; Global; 16 November

"We need an upright human being who knows the moral geometry of straight lines."

Dr. Ana Cecilia Magallanes Cortez, winner of the 2006 Integrity Award, on the personal qualities required for the continued struggle against corruption.  
From her acceptance speech at the 12th International Anti-Corruption Conference; Guatemala; 14 November

"Of course I will. I believe it is a matter of honour."

Prime Minister Gediminas Kirkilas of Lithuania on being asked whether he would resign if Lithuania failed to improve its ranking in next year's Corruption Perception Index.  
*The Baltic Times*; Baltic states; 16 November

"I indirectly heard some idiot had called. I didn't attach any importance to it. After the phone call, we went out and played soccer and I think we did our duty."

Poland national football coach Leo Beenhaker on reports that one of his players, Jacek Bak, was offered bribes over the phone to lose a match against Belgium.  
*International Herald Tribune*; Global; 17 November

"The doctors here are good people. But my son needs an operation and I don't think they can do that here. In other hospitals, they want bribes to give you treatment. I went to one where they could do the operation and they wanted \$600. How will I get that kind of money? My son cannot go to school, he cannot walk, but there is nothing I can do. We had a lot of hope when the Taliban went, but there is very little of that now."

Amrullah, an Afghani labourer, on the corruption flourishing in his country.  
*The Independent*; United Kingdom; 20 November

**COMING UP**

**Coming up in December**

3-5 December

**EITI NGO Regional Strategy Meeting**

5 December

**Corruption, Extradition, Mutual Legal Assistance & Fraud Update: the UK's response to a global problem**

10-13 December

**Post-Conflict Institution Building: Beating Corruption**

10-14 December

**Conference of the State Parties to the United Nations Convention Against Corruption**

**Coming up in January 2007**

16-18 January

**International Conference on Sustainable Development in Conflict Situations**

22-24 January

**Delhi Sustainable Development Summit 2007**

24-25 January

**The 2007 International Aid & Trade Event: Building Partnerships for Humanitarian Relief**

24-28 January

**World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2007**

25-27 January

**World Social Forum Meeting 2007**

For more information on these events, visit TI's events page on the website, at:

[www.transparency.org/news\\_room/events](http://www.transparency.org/news_room/events)

**MASTHEAD**

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