

INTERVIEW OF THE MONTH

Jason Kohn speaks about the making of Manda Bala and corruption in Brazil



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SPOTLIGHT STORY



In Georgia, it's not coming up roses

The past few weeks in Georgia have seen the government impose a state of emergency, close the independent media, and, according to reports, disperse demonstrators with rubber bullets and tear gas. Leading to the question: what has happened to the spirit of the "Rose Revolution"? >> read more

ANTI-CORRUPTION WORK AROUND THE WORLD



TI is coordinating a regional project to reduce corruption and 'resource leakages' in the primary education sector of seven African countries; namely Ghana, Madagascar, Morocco, Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Uganda. >> read more



A new guide published by TI in October analyses experiences of citizen's control concerning political financing in different civil society organisations in Latin America. >> read more



The French version of the Global Corruption Report was presented to the public and the media at a launch event in Yaoundé, hosted by TI Cameroon. >> read more

NEWS FROM THE ANTI-CORRUPTION MOVEMENT

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CORRUPTION IN THE NEWS



Nigerian minister Etteh resigns amid allegations of corruption. >> read more



Attention to corruption in sports increases after interview with British tennis player Andy Murray and BBC Radio 5. >> read more



Siemens, the German electrical-engineering firm, paid a €201 million (US \$285 million) fine for corruption last month. >> read more

CORRUPTION IN QUOTES

"If it does not [enact a strategy to tackle the corruption that has eroded large parts of Mexico's local and federal police forces], Mexico will simply go from having a corrupt and badly equipped police force, to a corrupt and well-equipped police force." >> read more

INTERVIEW OF THE MONTH

Jason Kohn speaks about the making of Manda Bala and corruption in Brazil

By Amber Poroznuk



Manda Bala (send a bullet) is a documentary, feature - length film that explores the cycles of violence that plague Brazil's upper and lower economic classes in fits of rampant corruption and violent kidnappings. The film showcases many disparate elements that characterise the Brazil of today - from a frog farm connect to a corruption politician, to a kidnapping victim who had her ears cut off, or a plastic surgeon specialising in reconstructive ear surgery. The thread that connects all of these elements, and the lasting message of film is that political corruption is a violent crime with dramatic social consequences. Transparency Watch speaks with director Jason Kohn about the making of the film.

Transparency Watch (TW): *First, I would like to congratulate you on the film – I found it excellent. One of the things that really surprised me was how many characters there are and how many stories you have managed to weave together. Which aspect of the story did you begin with and how did the expansion of the storyline unfold?*

Jason Kohn (JK): I was working for a filmmaker in Boston and researching Brazil because I really wanted to do something on Brazil. I was always seeing corruption in the daily news cycles, but then it would always be forgotten. Nothing happened to stop it. And at the time, my father was also getting held up in his car every once in awhile.

Then one day my dad called from Sao Paulo and told he about the frog farm. My reaction was basically "Excuse me? Millions of dollars to create a frog farm?" Around the same time, a story appeared in the *New York Times* about the plastic surgeon doing ear reconstruction for kidnapping victims. And then I was talking with a friend and we thought it was like how the rich stealing from the poor and the poor stealing from the rich. It's class warfare, but a new kind of warfare. It's not so delineated. It all really began from reading about this.

I went down to Brazil when I was 23, I sold my car, and we started filming everything we could that was related to these two stories. Following the frog farming story, I started to learn about [the politician] Jader Barbalho and to look into stories involving alleged misappropriation of public funds. Then there was the profile of the kidnapping victim. A lot of people were linked together through money.

TW: *Have you ever had any personal experience with corruption?*

JK: My father lives in Sao Paulo and so this is really my second city. In Brazil it is nearly impossible not to experience corruption. For example, during the making of the film, we spent forever trying to get an interview with a kidnapper. We finally found someone willing to speak with us, but he was in prison, and to get to him, we would have had to pay US \$10,000 in bribes. It's not that it is illegal to do these kinds of interviews from jail, but we would have had to grease the wheels by paying off judges, lawyers, jail officials. We were prepared to pay it - it was a story that really needed to be told. But then the money ran out.

TW: *With the first viewing of the film it may not be obvious that all aspects of the film are closely related to corruption – surely they are all related to crime. But the line of reasoning would have to be that because of the political corruption – depicted in the film as the misuse, or misappropriation, of SUDAM funds – poverty increased for those who did not benefit as the SUDAM project intended, and because of this poverty, crime increased. Would you agree? Or do you see the link in another way?*

JK: I would absolutely agree. Corruption begets poverty, begets violence, begets corruption. That is exactly the message of the film – the drastic snowball effect of political corruption.

TW: *According to Claudio Fonteles, the Attorney General of Brazil, "Corruption is the thing that links all other crimes." Do you agree?*

JK: Absolutely. I consider the guy an absolute hero. This interview came two and a half years into the project, and it was such a relief. For so long it was really difficult to explain to people what the film was about, especially the crew. Then we sat down with the Attorney General of Brazil, and he basically laid down in three sentences what the film was about. It was stunning. Crew members cried. Not only did

they finally understand what the film was then about, they began to understand the situation in Brazil in a much different way. They came to understand how corruption does have this strong effect on society, and how it is all related.

TW: *The film highlights one prominent political figure – Jadar Barbalho. Did you find it difficult to get information about him? Do you have any idea where he is today?*

JK: He is still in office! Now he is in Congress, and more powerful than perhaps any other time in his career. He is the president of his political party. He has allied himself politically with Brazil's President Lula. There was recently a story run on millions of dollars he owned in taxes for a television broadcasting company he owned.

TW: *There are a few references to the huge amount of wealth accumulated by Javier Barbalho in the film; in one instance of receiving US \$9 million for a US \$300,000 frog farm, in another the statement of the civil lawyer that he received US \$30 million for a rubber plantation that did not plant one tree. Are there any estimates as to the total amount of wealth appropriated by Barbalho?*



Manager of the frog farm in question (left), speaking with a translator for the film about the financing of the frog farm. This image is a still, taken from the film, with the permission of Jason Kohn.

JK: It is impossible to say – even these figures are estimates. There is not a lot of consistency with these numbers. For the film, we used the numbers the public prosecutors were using the most, but even these are estimates.

It is even harder to garner estimates of the numbers because I believe it is likely that much of the money is in overseas accounts. You've seen the testimony of the civil attorney fighting against Barbalho in the film – it's his experience after twenty years chasing this guy – recovering the money is the hardest part.

TW: *One of the predominant elements of the film was violent crime. Did you feel physically threatened at any point of making the film?*

JK: I never felt myself at risk, but perhaps that is because I dressed like a schmuck and drove a shitty car. However, in the making of the film there was one instance where things got very scary – we were shooting the interview with the kidnapper. First we went out for beers, then his wife cooked us lunch. It was really nice. Then we saw the police coming into the favela. Besides being a kidnapper, he is also a drug dealer - he had a kilo of crack and a kilo of cocaine in his home. We were all laying on the floor and he yelled "go get my gun." Then he was standing in his doorway, gun loaded, ready to exchange fire.

The police got out right in front of his house, and started circling his house. And he really didn't mind – he felt like killing police officers was part of his job. What we didn't understand at the time, was that the police wanted to take him on the outside, drinking beers with an American, so they would be able to extort bribes from him. When they saw he was inside, not outside, they went away. I had assumed a certain amount of risk in making the film, but this was a little much.

TW: *The opening shot in the film says "A film that cannot be shown in Brazil." What do you mean by this? Have you tried to show it in Brazil?*

JK: In the United States, documentary film makers are protected under the same journalistic laws as the journalists. In Brazil that is not the case. In Brazil any distributor would have to deal with potential lawsuits from persons featured in the film.

TW: *What do you hope to achieve with your film?*

JK: Well the film wasn't originally shot as a documentary, but as a feature film. My true passion is for film and creating interesting things that people want to see. But if I had to send a message with my film, it would be this: **political corruption is a violent crime with dramatic social consequences.** I am not so confident into thinking that. As long people to think of political corruption as an act of theft, then they will deal with it theft is not really punished in a significant way. But this is not theft. This is an act of violence. You cannot steal millions of dollars from very poor people and expect there not to be social consequences. And this coming from politicians, whose are meant to be responsible for the social good.

Manda Bala was the winner of two awards at the Sundance Film Festival 2007 – best documentary and excellence in cinematography. Manda Bala opened in New York City at The Angelika on 17 August, in Los Angeles at Laemmle's Royal and Laemmle's Playhouse on 31 August. To check if Manda Bala will come to your city, or to watch the trailer, please see: www.mandabala.com .

About the director:

Jason Kohn is a first time director from New York. At twenty-three, he left Errol Morris' office to make the feature documentary Manda Bala, a film about kidnapping and corruption in Brazil. In the course of producing this film he received the Sundance Documentary Fund grant and a Mortimer-Hayes Fellowship. Jason's life is dedicated to the appreciation and production of cinema and fighting corrosive cultural powers of god, greed and corruption.

Jason made Manda Bala with close college friends Joey Frank and Jared Goldman. He spent the past five years solely producing and directing Manda Bala.

SPOTLIGHT STORY

In Georgia, it's not coming up roses

By Mike Sidwell



The past few weeks in Georgia have seen the government impose a state of emergency, close the independent media, and, according to reports, disperse demonstrators with rubber bullets and tear gas. Leading to the question: what has happened to the spirit of the "Rose Revolution"?

On 7 November, Georgian President Mikhail Saakashvili squashed an anti-government protest and declared a state of emergency. The result? According to Transparency International's chapter in Georgia ([TI Georgia](#)), over 500 people hospitalised and the closure of the country's independent media.

How did this happen? Four years ago the very same President rode to power courtesy of the 2003 "Rose Revolution", where tens of thousands of Georgians took to the streets to peacefully demonstrate against the government of President Eduard Shevardnadze (see an earlier [Transparency Watch article](#) on this subject). Since then Mr Saakashvili has steered Georgia through numerous economic and regulatory reforms and has adopted a resolutely pro-Western stance. In 2006 the [World Bank](#) named Georgia as the leading global reformer in 2005-2006.

However, the reforms in question have mainly benefited the urban middle classes, meaning many people, especially in rural regions, have yet to see improvements to their standard of life. The opposition has accused Mr Saakashvili's administration of prosecutorial abuses and intolerance towards any opposition. While only last week the United Nations (UN) Human Rights Committee expressed concern at reports of excessive force being used by Georgian prison officials, allegedly resulting in several deaths. The forceful methods used last week in dispersing the protestors – the [BBC](#) reported tear gas, rubber bullets and water cannons being employed against thousands of protesters – raises concerns over human rights.

From 2 November, protestors assembled in front of the Parliament in Tbilisi, Georgia's capital, to campaign for early parliamentary elections, changes to the current electoral system, greater political pluralism, and the release of political prisoners. The opposition leaders who organised the protest, the largest since the "Rose Revolution", emphasised the peaceful nature of the demonstration and their support for the constitution. According to TI Georgia's [report](#), the government's lacklustre efforts to enter into a serious dialogue frustrated the protestors to the point that they called for Mr Saakashvili's resignation.

The government took these demands as rumblings of a coup and responded on 7 November violently with riot police, blaming aggression from some protestors for the heavy-handed measures. A 15-day state of emergency was declared and radio and television stations were banned from broadcasting news reports. Two independent television stations were also completely taken off the air, with conflicting reports regarding the damage inflicted by the riot police to one of them. The government aired recorded conversations, allegedly between leaders of the opposition and the Russian intelligence service, as justification.

Two opposition leaders were accused of espionage, although the charge against one of them has since been dropped, and three Russian diplomats expelled. For its part, Russia rejects the allegations from the Georgian government that its intelligence service played any part in supporting a coup effort and reciprocated by declaring three Georgian embassy officials in Moscow *personae non gratae*.

The media, civil society organisations and foreign governments have widely renounced the excessive force used by the Georgian government, the imposed state of emergency and the media restrictions, as being out of proportion to the situation and undermining democracy.

Now Mr Saakashvili faces growing international criticism over the reported events. In a [statement](#) issued on 8 November the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Louise Arbour, stresses that she is "particularly worried over reports of disproportionate use of force, including against Georgia's Public Defender, the detention of opposition leaders and the beating of demonstrators". [TI Georgia](#) describes how "police officers and riot police not only violently dispersed the protestors, who were unarmed and varied in age and gender, but continued to pursue them down side streets and into shops and other

buildings". The [Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe](#) has called for the Georgian authorities to hold a full and independent inquiry to determine whether excessive force had been used against the protestors.

The events are also likely to be a setback for Mr Saakashvili's ambitions for Georgia to join [NATO](#), which has condemned the imposition of emergency rule and the closure of media outlets as incompatible with Euro-Atlantic values.

In an effort to defuse the situation Mr Saakashvili announced on 8 November that presidential elections would take place earlier than planned, on 5 January 2008, as would a plebiscite on the timing of the parliamentary elections.

Rather than simply deciding who will be president, the elections look poised to determine the powers invested in the position, with Georgia's opposition parties united in their desire for the powers of the president to be reduced and for Georgia to be transformed into a full parliamentary democracy. On 12 November a coalition of opposition parties named Levan Gachechiladze as their joint candidate.

The ruling party also appears to be gearing up for the elections with two cabinet changes and Mr Saakashvili's nomination on 16 November for Lado Gurgenidze, chairman of the bank of Georgia, to replace Zurab Noghaideli as prime minister.

The state of emergency was lifted on 16 November. However, Georgia's most popular television station, Imedi, has still to resume broadcasting. Imedi's television license has been suspended for three months on the grounds that it violated Georgia's law on broadcasting, which means the station, which was often critical of the government, is unlikely to cover the elections.

So long as the independent media is hindered from broadcasting, the effective dissemination of information, necessary to help voters make an informed decision, is impossible. The opposition coalition is planning a demonstration in support of Imedi and a free media on 25 November.

While Transparency International welcomes the Georgian government's decision to end the state of emergency, it is important at this time of heightened tensions that Georgia adheres to its obligations in the [International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights](#).

Much is at stake and it is important for Georgia's future that the ideals of the "Rose Revolution" are not forgotten. The international community and Transparency International expect Mr Saakashvili and all [parties](#) involved to remain loyal to these values.

TI Georgia has issued a statement with ten pre-conditions for free and fair elections in Georgia. To read this document, please click [here](#).

[Transparency International Georgia](#) (TI Georgia) is a national chapter of Transparency International, the global civil society organisation leading the fight against corruption. TI Georgia was established on 7 May 2000 as a local non-governmental organisation committed to combating corruption in Georgia through the promotion of transparency and accountability. TI Georgia's mission is to serve as the primary source of information on corruption reform in Georgia, assist the Georgian Government and the broader public in facilitating reform in sectors where corruption exists, and build and strengthen institutions. To fulfil this mission, TI Georgia: establishes programmatic activities that target structural corruption in specific sectors; promotes access of local populations to information on existing problems and changes initiated to address these problems; encourages input on reform from local and international experts; assists the Government in drafting policy; and produces analysis and public policy recommendations on current activities and on future reform.

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:

- [Africa Education Watch workshop](#)
- [TI publishes new guide to oversight of political finance](#)
- [French version of Global Corruption Report on Judicial Corruption launched in Yaoundé](#)

Africa Education Watch workshop

By Stepahne Stassen



Transparency International is coordinating a regional project to reduce corruption and 'resource leakages' in the primary education sector of seven African countries: Ghana, Madagascar, Morocco, Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Uganda. TI national chapters or contract groups in these countries are engaged in an assessment process to identify the shortcomings and loopholes in the education financing systems that facilitate the development of corrupt practices and mismanagement.

The project, titled 'Africa Education Watch', officially began in July 2007 and will include two phases: an assessment phase (aimed at identifying weak points in the primary education management structures, as well as nature and scope of 'resource leakages'), followed by an advocacy phase, which will try to bring about the necessary changes to address the problems identified in the first phase.

The first workshop in the Africa Education Watch project was held in Accra, Ghana, on 18-20 October. One of the workshop's purposes was the finalisation of the polling and survey instruments to be used in this programme for assessing resource leakages and the efficiency of decentralised governance structures in the primary education sector.

Now that the polling and survey instruments have been finalised, the project can move forward and survey local households about the actual services they receive from the primary schools in their countries. This information, provided by the parents, will be matched against information obtained at the school, district and national levels. Not only will this increase data consistency, it will also enable the project to track resources like schoolbooks or free meals for kids. Members and Chairpersons of School Management Committees and Parent-Teacher Associations will also be interviewed throughout the project.

Once the assessment of school services has been carried out, the second phase of the Africa Education Watch programme will involve lobbying governments and education authorities to address problems that will have been identified. In addition to the national advocacy campaigns, a regional campaign will address cross-country issues and engage with international donor agencies to implement specific reforms to prevent the identified shortcomings.

TI publishes new guide to oversight of political finance

By Marta Erquicia



A practical guide, titled *Citizen's oversight of political finance – A practical guide about experiences and challenges*, was published (in Spanish) in October by Transparency International as a tool for civil society. The guide analyses experiences of citizen's control concerning political financing in different civil society organisations in Latin America.

Due to the recently undertaken Crinis project and other programmes on increasing transparency in political finance, the TI network and other allied organisations have accumulated extensive experience in this region.

The guide begins by comparing different experiences and showcasing the various control tools used by different actors to identify best practices, challenges, and learnt lessons as well as potential fields of

innovation.

The first chapter of the book lists the different risks of corruption in political finance and the traditional “formulas” often used to confront them. The second chapter analyses – in a comparative perspective – different citizen’s control tools

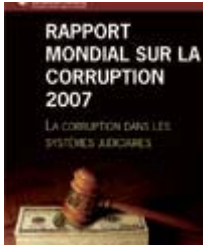
for political finance. The third chapter describes concrete applications of several tools in different countries.

To access the publication online (in Spanish), please go to:

www.transparency.org/content/download/25141/377898/

French version of Global Corruption Report on Judicial Corruption launched in Yaoundé

By David Koschel



The French version of the *Global Corruption Report*, titled *Le Rapport Mondial sur la Corruption – La corruption dans les systèmes judiciaires* was presented to the public and the media at a launch event in Yaoundé, Cameroun, hosted by TI Cameroon (TI C). Attended by 70 guests, including journalists, representatives of civil society organisations representatives of the Cameroonian anti-corruption commission and embassies, the launch was part of the advocacy work undertaken by TI’s Judicial Advocacy Working Group.

“Everyone loses when justice is corrupted, in particular the poor, who are forced to pay bribes they cannot afford,” explained Maitre Charles Nguini, President of TI Cameroon. *“Fighting judicial corruption means an end to impunity for the corrupt.”*

The launch highlighted the general findings of the study and the results of the *Global Corruption Barometer* – one of TI’s main indices – on questions related to judicial corruption. The key findings include pointing out that a functioning judiciary is essential for a country’s economic development, since legal insecurity shies investors away. The launch also drew attention to the four safeguards for judicial corruption and a diagnostic checklist that civil society can use to monitor judicial corruption.

In the months preceding the launch, TI C has organised seminars with representatives from the judicial sector in order to increase knowledge about the problem of corruption, to make the judiciary more effective in fighting corruption and to identify measures needed to minimise risks of corruption within the judiciary itself. Given the high perception of judicial corruption in Cameroon according to the *Global Corruption Barometer 2007*, these seminars were of high relevance and interest, addressing judge, magistrates, and lawyers from various regions and representatives from the ministry of justice.

To read press coverage of the launch please see (in French), [All Africa](#), [Cameroon Tribune](#), [La Nouvelle Expression](#), and [Le Messenger](#).

To access the complete GCR online in pdf format, please go to: www.transparency.org/publications/gcr

Corruption stories of note in the news this month:

- [Nigerian House Speaker resigns over US \\$5 million contract scandal](#)
- [Match-fixing in tennis brings attention to corruption in sports](#)
- [Siemens fined US \\$285 million for corruption](#)

Nigerian House Speaker resigns over US \$5 million contract scandal

By Bryan Li

Investigations into two renovation contracts approved by House Speaker Patricia Etteh for official residences worth US \$5 million began on 16 October. The contracts were awarded by Etteh for her personal residences, and included US \$500,000 for massage equipment as well as ten new cars.

News of these contracts created uproar in Nigeria's Parliament and solicited calls from the opposition for the Speaker's dismissal, [the Telegraph](#) reports.

Last month, a panel of Members of Parliament (MPs) found that standard procedures were not followed and that the tenders were not advertised. "There was no basis for arriving at the approved contract sums," [the Telegraph](#) quotes from a report released by the nine-member panel. "I think Etteh will have to step down in the end," a senior PDP official told [Reuters Africa](#), asking not to be named. "The moral platform is weak and public opinion is strongly against her," he added.

After weeks of pressure, Patricia Etteh did resign on 30 October. Despite her eventual resignation, the affair was seen to be a major embarrassment for President Umaru Yar'Adua who did not intervene in the situation, despite his promise of zero tolerance on corruption, reports [BBC News](#).

Match-fixing in tennis brings attention to corruption in sports

By Nadja Kostka



In the past month, the attention of the global media has been fixed on match-fixing in tennis. The increased attention to the sport came after British player Andy Murray said in an interview with [BBC Radio 5](#) "everybody knows it [match-fixing] goes on".

[The Times](#) reports that "four years after suspicions were first raised; the game's authorities" – the men's Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP), the International Tennis Federation (ITF), the Women's Tennis Association (WTA) and the Grand Slam Committee – "have finally been persuaded to take action against corruption [globally]." [The Independent](#) notes that they met on 12 October to discuss recent accusations.

[The Times](#) furthermore notes that "there are grave suspicions that money is being exchanged for tournament passes; that former players are being granted access to events and acting as insiders for gambling conglomerates; that whispers about injuries and arguments with girlfriends are being passed down the line, encouraging sudden surges of money on players who ought not to win but do."

The article continues with an observation that some matches dating back to 2003 have been surrounded by unusual betting activity and that the issue was far more complex than players simply being offered money to lose matches.

[The Independent](#) states that tennis "must remain vigilant against the threat of match-fixing and betting scams". In particular the recent game on the ATP's match list between 4th-ranked Nikolay Davyenko and 87th-ranked Martin Vassallo Arguello at the Poland Open in August 2007 invoked suspicion.

Allegations of corruption arose as "the Internet betting agency Betfair voided \$10 million worth of wagers after Davyenko's injury retirement in the third set", recalls the [Sydney Morning Herald \(Australia\)](#). Official investigations to investigate these irregular betting patterns are underway.

[Bloomberg](#) reports that the global governing bodies of tennis decided to hire an outside firm to assess the danger that gambling poses to the sport. "We have not found evidence of corruption in the sport,"

Kris Dent, the spokesman of ATP, said. "But we recognise there is a threat to all sports posed by gambling."

Siemens fined US \$285 million for corruption

By Mike Sidwell



On 4 October, a German court fined Siemens, the German electrical-engineering firm, €201 million (US \$285 million) for bribery in the company's telecommunications department. Siemens will not appeal the court's ruling.

The [*International Herald Tribune \(IHT\)*](#) reports that Peter Loscher, the new chief executive of Siemens, views the decision as playing an important part in helping the company come to terms with the corruption revelations. So far the scandal has prompted Siemens' chief executive and chairman to step down, although neither has been implicated. The IHT adds that it could potentially also result in a major shake up of the company's structure.

The [*IHT*](#) notes that this development is part of an ongoing scandal – German prosecutors are currently looking into other bribery charges concerning Siemens, and authorities in other countries have reacted to the debacle by launching anti-trust probes.

Siemens' own internal investigations have, [*AFP*](#) writes, "uncovered 420 million euros ([US] 606 million dollars) in "questionable payments" dating back to 1999, although press reports say the sum involved exceeded 1.5 billion euros [US \$2.1 billion]." The same article reports that Siemens is offering to spare senior managers from any harsh actions in return for whistleblowing for any violations that they are aware of.

According to the [*Financial Times*](#), "several analysts believe Siemens could be looking at a fine of more than €1bn [US \$1.4 billion]" from the legal proceedings in America alone. Siemens is currently being scrutinised by the American Department of Justice and the Securities & Exchange Commission.

In spite of this, [*The Economist*](#) reports that many analysts are optimistic that "Siemens will not only survive but benefit from all the upheaval."

NEWS FROM THE ANTI-CORRUPTION MOVEMENT

TI Malaysia supports the Chief Secretary's call for action

TI Malaysia issued a Press Release in support of a statement made by the Chief Secretary to the Government of Malaysia, Tan Sri Mohd Sidek Hassan, pointing out that firm action should be taken against the government officers responsible for malpractices and corrupt practices, as highlighted in the *Auditor General's 2006 Report*. TI Malaysia's President, Tan Sri Ramon Navaratnam, stated on behalf of TI Malaysia that the government should fully explain to the Rakyat (House of Representatives) the measures taken to ensure that there is accountability and prudent management of tax revenue.

TI South Korea hosts anti-corruption symposium

The Council for the Korea Pact on Anti Corruption and Transparency International's (K-PACT) Symposium – Vision of a Transparent Society – was held on 18 October by TI South Korea, bringing together all actors in the areas of anti-corruption and transparency. The aim was to contribute to a transparent presidential election, encourage active implementation of the K-PACT by the participating bodies and demonstrate objective verification of the implementation of the K-PACT. The Symposium also sought to initiate public promotion of K-PACT internationally, to improve the K-PACT and to identify future tasks. The symposium was a platform for opinion leaders from the public, political and private sectors as well as civil society.

TI Slovakia's ALAC project

[Transparency International Slovakia](#) (TI S) has participated in an ALAC project with financial support from the European Union since February 2007. Their participation was part of a larger project "*Strengthening the Role of the Local and Regional Government Watchdog Organisations in the Fight against Corruption*". Running under the name "Poradňa Transparency International Slovensko", ALAC Slovakia has been providing advisory services for those in need. Most of the questions brought to the ALAC Slovakia have dealt with municipal questions. The ALAC Slovakia has to date handled 90 cases.

Upcoming ALAC launch in Zambia

TI Zambia is proud to announce the upcoming launch of an Advocacy and Legal Advice Centre (ALAC) on 6 November. TI Zambia will work in partnership with other legal aid providers if it comes across cases without a strong corruption element as well as with three local civil society organisations and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) for cooperation on law enforcement training. For more information, please visit [TI Zambia's website](#).

The Water Integrity Network Secretariat authors a World Bank Working Paper on Standards in Communication and Governance.

Co-authored by Larry Haas, a consultant for the Water Integrity Network Secretariat (WIN-S), Leonardo Mazzei from the World Bank and Donal O'Leary, a senior advisor for Transparency International and with a forward by Cobus de Swardt, TI's Managing Director, the paper deals with standards in communication and governance in infrastructure projects.

Transparency International Albania (CAO) organises hearing on Reform in the Judicial System

Participants included the President of the Republic, Mr. Bamir Topi, as well as hundreds of judges, prosecutors and lawyers from the Vlora Judicial District, representatives from Transparency International in Berlin, UNICEF and other international organisations, with Mr. Kreshnik Spahiu, director of TIA/ CAO and member of the High Judicial Council presiding. This was the first time that the President of the Republic gave a speech in front of the judicial representatives and held a discussion with them regarding the challenges of the reformation of the system. Mr. Topi also gave some very clear messages regarding the necessity to fight corruption from within the system as well as to establish a citizen-oriented justice system in the courts.

TI Czech Republic releases a new *Policy Paper* on blacklisting in public procurement

[A new study](#) prepared by TI Czech Republic (TIC) focusses on how one could implement a debarment

system in the country. The advantages and disadvantages of such a concept are discussed in the paper, with the aim of supporting public and professional discussion on the use of blacklisting in public contracts. In particular, questions such as what blacklists are, how they may be used in public procurement, whether it is possible to implement them and what must be done to do so are answered. Proper setup for blacklists and prevention of misuse are also addressed.

TI Bangladesh calls for civil society organisation commission and self-regulation of civil society organisations

TI Bangladesh published a paper on the subject of the credibility and sustainability of the civil society organisation sector in Bangladesh, calling for self-regulation as the field experiences robust growth in the country. In the interest of continued success, credibility and sustainability of the sector issues relating to governance and corruption are dealt with.

A study was undertaken to assess the nature and extent of governance failure, and recommendations for producing transparency and good governance in the sector are given, produced from both desk work and fact finding on selected civil society organisations. Among the problems discussed are the role of the governing body decision making process, financial transparency, human resource development and grievance procedures, accountability to service recipients, donors and government project implementation, supervision and monitoring, and secrecy of information.

ALAC capacity-building visit of the Kosovo Democratic Institute in Berlin

On 11 October, two representatives of the Kosovo Democratic Institute (KDI), Arsim Gjinoci and Ismet Kreyziu, visited the Transparency International Secretariat (TI S) in Berlin to get acquainted with TI's anti-corruption work. Their main focus was on the advocacy and legal advice work being done in South Eastern Europe. The capacity-building visit was funded by the German Foreign Office through Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe funds.

To prepare the KDI to set up an Advocacy and Legal Advice Center (ALAC) in Kosovo, TI S invited the two representatives of KDI to learn about how to set-up and operate an ALAC. Further topics of discussion between TI S and KDI were TI's global priorities, its experience with projects related to Access to Information and *National Integrity System Studies*.

Partnership for Transparency in Lebanon

The Ministry of Finance and the Lebanese Transparency Association (LTA) attended a signing ceremony for a Memorandum of Understanding that reflects their strategic Partnership for Transparency in Lebanon. The signing ceremony was held on Thursday 25 October.

During the ceremony, the Ministry of Finance presented the measures that it has undertaken to promote transparency, including the publication of the 1993-2006 fiscal accounts.

TI Zimbabwe celebrates World Teacher Day

Transparency International Zimbabwe (TI Z) celebrated World Teacher Day on 5 October, highlighting the importance of education and declaring it a basic human right. TI Z marked the day with a call to arrest the decay in educational standards for all and the lack of teachers in the country, drawing attention to newspaper articles with titles such as "Children stranded as teachers desert in droves". TI Z celebrated the work of educators who persevered under severe conditions and brought attention to the challenges in attaining transparency, accountability and integrity in the education system and the costs of corruption.

TI Latvia protests

Latvia has been rocked by popular protests after the Latvian government sacked the top anti-corruption official. Transparency International Latvia took action in October as it stood outside the Parliament building each day that Parliament held a plenary session, in order to protect the rule of law. TI Latvia says this will continue until such time as the government withdraws its decision to sack Aleksejs Loskutovs, director of the Corruption Prevention and Combating Bureau (KNAB). This demonstration started on 24 October, in cooperation with the Latvian Association of Free Labour Unions, and was preceded by one demonstration on 18 October.

Monitoring presidential elections in Argentina

Poder Ciudadano (PC) carried out several monitoring activities in the days prior to the 28 October Presidential elections in Argentina, as part of the chapter's efforts to strengthen democracy. PC presented the results of their media monitoring, which showed the imbalanced coverage to candidates and how this limits the information available to voters. Poder Ciudadano also published and widely disseminated a brief guide with key information about the procedures that both authorities and voters should observe during the day of the elections. On the elections day, PC set up telephone lines through which more than 500 complaints were received. The chapter is now using this information to advocate for reforms in the electoral system. To read more, visit the chapter's website at:

www.poderciudadano.org/

Anti-corruption and social change: cooperation with Ashoka

TI and Ashoka – the global association of the world’s leading social entrepreneurs – recently identified new opportunities for collaboration as anti-corruption is increasingly a key issue for social change. Joint actions began in Latin America. In cooperation with TI, Ashoka convened a meeting in Ushuaia, Argentina, from 15 to 17 October, in which Ashoka fellows working on transparency issues in Latin America exchanged experiences, identified common challenges and determined future actions to strengthen transparency at local level. Based on TILAC’s experience, TI provided methodological support to guide the meeting and input to discussions of national chapters’ initiatives. Other actions between TI and Ashoka will be developed during 2008. For more information, please contact Andres Hernandez at: ahernandez@transparency.org

TI meets the President of Panama

On 10 October, TI representatives met in Berlin with the President of Panama, Mr. Martín Torrijos, and the Vice-President, Mr. Samuel Lewis. The meeting was an opportunity to follow up on the “Guatemala Declaration for a Corruption Free Region”, signed by President Torrijos and the heads of States of the Central America countries during the XII IACC in November 2006. President Torrijos agreed on the importance of translating this commitment into concrete actions, discussed different anti-corruption measures taken by his government and welcomed TI’s invitation to promote the follow up to the Declaration among the Central American Presidents. Other issues discussed were the need to develop measurement tools at national level to complement international assessments, the importance of identifying achievements and challenges in the fight against corruption, and the government’s efforts to ensure transparency in the Panama Canal enlargement.

Votebien.com provided information to more than 40,000 voters in Colombia

To contribute to a more transparent and upright electoral process for the 28 October regional elections in Colombia, TI’s chapter Transparencia por Colombia launched the website **votebien.com** last July. In the month leading up to the elections, the website received more than 40,200. It included updated information on candidates’ experience and proposals for 15 major cities and 11 provinces as well as information on campaign finances, to help citizens make an informed vote.

More than 90 press releases were published and multimedia reports were elaborated to inform about the main factors threatening transparency during the electoral process. This project is a follow up to similar activities carried out in 2002 and 2003 in partnership with national media and other organisations.

To read more about the project, please go to: www.transparenciacolombia.org.co/vcontent/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=167&Itemid=21

Corruption Risks Map at the municipal level in Paraguay

Transparencia Paraguay established contact with municipal governments in Paraguay in order to implement the Corruption Risks Map tool in local administrations. In one of the municipalities, San Lorenzo, this work has been concluded and serious problems were found: conflict of interests, failures in the annual program of public contracting, administrative deficiencies, shortcomings in the Operative Unit for public contracting, irregular use of the service provision contracts, among others. The final report includes recommendations and guidelines to be implemented to tackle these issues. To read the final report, please see: www.transparencia.org.py.

Transparency Acquisitions in Mexican law enforcement

Transparencia Mexicana (TM) and the Federal Judiciary Council signed an agreement to strengthen civil society monitoring of acquisitions processes and public works. The Council is responsible for the management, surveillance and discipline of the Federal Judicial Power and is in charge of judicial careers.

During the signing of the agreement, the President of the Supreme Court, Mr Guillermo Ortíz Mayagoitia, called for a review of the acquisitions program of the Federal Judiciary and asked to focus efforts in the priority areas that will be identified by TM. Mr Ortíz mentioned that after acquisitions, the second area to be monitored will be the selection process of more than one thousand federal judges.

To date, Transparencia Mexicana has monitored more than US \$30,000 million of procurement projects in Mexico.

CORRUPTION IN QUOTES

"If it does not [enact a strategy to tackle the corruption that has eroded large parts of Mexico's local and federal police forces], Mexico will simply go from having a corrupt and badly equipped police force, to a corrupt and well-equipped police force."

Jorge Chabat, a Mexican national security analyst and drug expert, on a new US \$1.4 billion anti-drug campaign labelled 'Merida Initiative'.

International Herald Tribune; Mexico; 25 October 2007.

"A corrupt leader is a disgrace to him/herself and cannot be a leader."

President Umar Yar'Adua of Nigeria, 2007

All Africa; Nigeria; 12 October 2007

"Resolutely punishing and effectively preventing corruption bears on popular support for the party and on its very survival, and is therefore a major political task the party must attend to at all times."

Chinese President Hu Jintao, address to the 17th National Congress

South China Morning Post; Hong Kong; 18 October 2007

"Our file on British intelligence services' activities is huge. We know their strengths and weaknesses. Since the times of Queen Elizabeth I, British intelligence has operated on the principle that the end justifies the means. Their main methods of recruitment are money, bribery, blackmail and immunity from prosecution."

Nikolai Patrushev, director of the Federal Security Service, the successor to the KGB, on foreign spies in Russia.

The Guardian; UK; 12 October 2007

"German companies do not want to make these problems public, so there seems to be no problem... Many believe that they are immune to white collar crime, [e]specially medium-sized companies are a little naive."

Professor Kai Bussmann from the University of Halle, on recent corruption allegations and investigations in Germany, noting that more than Euro €6 billion is lost annually by German companies due to corruption.

DW-RADIO; Germany; 20 October 2007.

"We need to improve the legislative framework, we must work with society to reduce tolerance of corruption, from small bribes on the road to big commercial corruption."

President Vladimir Putin of Russia, during his annual televised question and answer phone-in with the public on 11 October 2007

Reuters; Global; 18 October 2007.

"This is going to go down nice, or it's going to go down nasty...If they back me into a corner, I'm going to be very aggressive ... I'm not going away."

Robert Cerasoli, a former inspector general for the state of Massachusetts who has a long résumé of fighting waste and corruption, on his new job as Inspector General of New Orleans in charge of preventing corruption in the city. The FBI's New Orleans office has tracked a 452 percent jump in corruption indictments during the past five years.

USA Today; USA; 19 October 2007

"In my mind I said, 'look, if the tenders were not advertised, how did the companies that bid for these contracts get to find out that these jobs were up for grabs?'"

Sanni Saleh-Minjdir, Member of Nigeria's House of Representatives and a member of the team that investigated a controversially awarded housing contract for personal use, worth US \$5 million, for House Speaker Patricia Etteh.

Voice of America; Nigeria; 17 October 2007

MASTHEAD

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