

FEATURE INTERVIEW



feature interview

Six months into her new role as Chair of Transparency International, Huguette Labelle spoke with Barbara Ann Clay, TI's Director of Communications, about her broad priorities for the anti-corruption movement, what inspired her to begin fighting corruption and join TI, and her commitment to ensuring a better world for the next generation. >> read more

IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Investigative journalism: exposing corruption

Investigative journalists expose corruption, often at great personal risk. Here, Transparency International provides an overview of the invaluable role of journalists in countering corruption, the challenges they face in doing so, and describes how the anti-corruption movement helps to support them. >> read more

TRANSPARENCY & CULTURE

Cartoons and caricatures about corruption, fraud and other unscrupulous activities are not only entertaining and humorous, they can also enhance understanding of complicated political issues. This month TI highlights the cartoons and experiences of two prominent Moldovan caricaturists - Alex Dimitrov and Ion Matu.



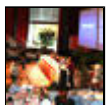
CORRUPTION Q & A

The struggles of an investigative journalist: Walter Mayr, Moscow Bureau Chief for Der Spiegel, suggests that in Russia, information is difficult if not entirely impossible to access, and bribes are the norm of daily life.

ANTI-CORRUPTION WORK AROUND THE WORLD



Transparence France has pressured the French government for an adequate response to allegations related to French companies listed in the Volcker report, and has begun to see some success. >> read more



The 22 April communiqué of the Development Committee of the World Bank-IMF Spring Meetings puts corruption high on the agenda. >> read more



The Inter-American Convention against Corruption of the Organisation of American States has celebrated its tenth anniversary. Now it's time to step up monitoring and enforcement. >> read more

CORRUPTION IN THE NEWS



Calling corruption "one of the biggest threats to development in many countries", World Bank president Paul Wolfowitz steps up anti-corruption efforts. >> read more



Bulgaria's ability to control corruption is a deciding factor in whether the country will be able to join the European Union as scheduled. >> read more



The World Bank withheld more than half a billion US dollars in loans to India in early April because of potential corruption in health projects. >> 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

Corruption in the Philippines costs the government US\$ 1.9 billion annually - twice the size of the national education budget. >> read more

COMING UP

Upcoming events of interest to the anti-corruption movement in May and June 2006.

FEATURE INTERVIEW

feature interview



Six months into her new role as Chair of Transparency International, Huguette Labelle, spoke to Barbara Ann Clay about her broad priorities for the anti-corruption movement, what inspired her to begin fighting corruption and join TI, and her commitment to ensuring a better world for the next generation.

Huguette Labelle was elected Chair of Transparency International at its Annual Membership Meeting in November 2005. She brings an extensive background in development, health, education, governance, and anti-corruption work. In addition to her role with TI, Huguette is Chancellor of the University of Ottawa and serves on the boards of a number of organisations, including the International Institute for Sustainable Development, the International Union for Conservation of Nature, and the African Virtual University. In April she was appointed to the Board of the United Nations Global Compact. She spoke to TI's Director of Communications, Barbara Ann Clay, about her new role.

BAC: As the new Chair of Transparency International, what are your broad priorities for the movement?

HL: TI's first 13 years have provided a strong foundation to prepare us for a successful and productive future. As a movement, we can really rejoice in what we have accomplished together.

My priorities start with **anti-corruption conventions**. First we had to get them agreed by many governments with very different views, and this was a tough challenge. But we did it. Now they must be ratified, implemented and monitored. Monitoring is particularly important, because a successful movement learns continually from experience and reassesses what needs to change. These conventions must remain dynamic over time, with room for new areas to be added.

We also need to take stock of the work we have done in the **private sector**, deepen our efforts in sectors where we are already present, such as the construction industry, and move into new sectors where the climate is ripe for corruption, for example bio-medicine. Areas such as banking, money-laundering and fiscal havens are particularly important, more so because they are closely related to violence and crime, which can all too quickly become self-perpetuating. We also need to help employers build ethics and integrity. Codes of conduct and conflict of interest statements are often created but seldom tailored to a particular workplace. Once people truly understand how codes apply to them, to their work and their behaviour, they are better able to embrace and implement them.

TI has also done tremendous work in the **public sector**, with our National Integrity System studies identifying key areas for reform in many countries. We have already seen that political parties, the justice system and customs are particularly prone to corruption in many countries. We have also discovered that no sector is immune from corruption. Several chapters have conducted in-depth studies of sectors such as health and education - Senegal, for example, studied the health sector last year. These studies demonstrate how corruption works throughout a system, from the ministry to the local delivery point. They help us bring together everyone involved in each system, including the recipients of services, to work together to prevent corruption or tackle it promptly when it does appear.

Preventing corruption can start with using the **education system** to teach children the importance of ethical behaviour from an early age, and to continue that process throughout their education. This is a very practical way to introduce greater integrity and anti-corruption knowledge to a new generation. And it is a concept that spreads. Imagine introducing greater integrity and anti-corruption content across the faculties of engineering, law and education. These are industries where, down the road, a corrupt individual can do immense damage, or conversely, an individual of strong integrity can make a great difference. For example, a corrupt engineer can bring down a building and kill hundreds by using inferior materials in its construction. But if he learns to act with integrity those lives are saved. Each graduate

from the faculty of education – schooled in ethics - can carry a message of integrity to some 30 children each year.

BAC: *Your priorities cast an extremely wide net.*

HL: Well, corruption is a large and challenging topic.

BAC: *What are some of the challenges you, and TI, have faced so far in 2006?*

HL: Despite our successes in developing and publishing solid *indices, tools and reports*, we have not yet reaped their full benefit. We need to make sure these products - so rich in content - have the maximum impact. With the *Global Corruption Report* in particular, more can be done to increase its influence over the entire year. We have seen a lot of improvement with the visibility and promotion of the *GCR 2006* on corruption and health. Developing next year's report on the judiciary should involve the judiciary in a big way, well before the launch. In 2006 we are also turning our attention to TI's new global priority of *poverty, development and corruption* - a subject that is crucially important to millions of people struggling for survival around the world.

BAC: *I detect that underneath your business-like exterior, you are really an optimist. Is that true?*

HL: I *am* an optimist. I have seen the devastation of corruption, but I have also seen the amazing group of people around the world dedicated to fighting it. When you combine the two, how can you *not* be optimistic? I believe we can make a difference - that we *are* making a difference - but we can't sit back. If we stand still, we move backwards.

BAC: *We see anti-corruption governments elected around the world, and yet sometimes they fail to deliver on their promises, or fall back into corrupt or unethical behaviour. What is your view of these new anti-corruption governments - for example, Liberia's recent election of President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf?*

HL: It is very disappointing when new governments fail to deliver, even more so for the people of those countries, because their lives are at stake; they had been offered hope that was then yanked away. There are always considerable pressures on a new government to conform to the existing system. If that system is corrupt, the threat to their commitment is very powerful. As John Githongo has indicated, embedded systems are very difficult to deal with and are highly resilient. They fight back.

We have to better understand what causes a government that begins with political will, with the commitment to fight a legacy of corruption, to back off that commitment within a year or two of taking office. We cannot yet explain the dynamic. I hope that in the future, newly elected presidents such as the president of Liberia will be able to sustain themselves against the considerable counter pressures.

BAC: *There is a school of thought that humanitarian assistance is money wasted, because it only ends up lining the pockets of corrupt individuals. What is your take on this?*

HL: Humanitarian assistance is vital. It protects the lives of millions around the world. It is especially important in situations of starvation, violent conflict and natural disaster. I know from personal experience that a great deal of assistance does reach its target. The real problem arises when there is a sudden increase in assistance flows, when people are desperate and need the money to arrive immediately. When the systems are not yet in place to monitor and track the flow of money, it is very easy for some of it to be diverted, for supplies to be sold on the black market for personal benefit.

BAC: *What can we do at TI to make a difference in this area?*

HL: We must continue to work on stemming corruption in emergency situations and in disaster relief. We started this process following the devastating Indian Ocean tsunami, and we have followed up with a solid response to the horrific earthquake in Pakistan. We must work with donors, humanitarian aid agencies and governments to establish and reinforce anti-corruption systems, oversight and monitoring so they can be adopted quickly when a crisis arises. TI's work in mapping corruption hotspots will be an important contribution to preventing corruption in these circumstances.

Reconstruction is as important as humanitarian assistance, because even more money goes into rebuilding a country, for example, after a violent conflict.

BAC: *What inspired you to join the fight against corruption, and what inspires you now?*

HL: In my early days at the Canadian International Development Association, I saw the effects of corruption first hand; I saw so much money being lost, being diverted from people who depended on it to improve their lives. Countries rich in natural resources were exploiting these resources and yet their

people remained painfully poor, struggling to survive at the bottom of the poverty spectrum. So you know that money was going somewhere. When you see illness, death, a poor quality of life, you see that fighting corruption is vital to the future of these people.

And what inspires me now? The more you hear about corruption's devastating effect on ordinary people, the more you learn about how insidious corruption is, the more it motivates you to fight back. That is what inspires me now.

BAC: *Does it make you angry?*

HL: No, actually it makes me sad. Indignant is also a good word. It shouldn't happen.

BAC: *The World Bank plays an important role in the fight against corruption, and has now established an Institutional Integrity Department. How do you think it has changed since Paul Wolfowitz became president?*

HL: *[Former World Bank president]* Jim Wolfensohn started to speak openly about corruption and to introduce institutional change in the 1990s to deal with it. This was very important. Paul Wolfowitz arrived with an immediate motivation to tackle it.

In January I had the opportunity to have an introductory meeting with Paul Wolfowitz, and I indicated how important Transparency International views the World Bank in the fight against corruption, especially in how it delivers its programmes. The Bank has a number of criteria that must be reviewed at the project proposal stage, and a corruption risk analysis is not yet part of that. I introduced the idea that the Bank should institute such an analysis before a project is approved. Another positive step would be to use the Institutional Integrity Department, already a forward-looking initiative, as a source of motivation for other units and individuals about the importance of considering corruption in project proposals.

BAC: *You are the chair, not of a corporation, but of a global movement. How can we make this movement stronger?*

HL: We are only as strong as each of our elements. We must get chapters to support each other more, to give each other strength, and ensure greater attention to chapters that need it. One way would be by "twinning" chapters - a way for them to work more closely to reinforce their strengths and find common solutions to weaknesses. TI's Secretariat should look at new ways of supporting chapters when this could be most valuable. For instance, we might have a chapter in formation that lacks experience, or a chapter where many experienced staff have moved on, leaving it without the expertise to carry on its work.

BAC: *Let me ask one last question: what is your most important message to TI's chapters, to the anti-corruption movement around the world?*

HL: My message to our movement is clear: you have already made a difference. In 13 short years, through your dedication and hard work, TI has brought corruption out of the shadows and onto the world stage, and developed constructive and practical solutions to stop it. This organisation is respected around the world; we have credibility. We have reached this point through the high calibre of TI's work, both in the chapters and in the Secretariat.

But this is only the beginning of what we must do together. We must expand our reach: break new ground, be more creative and develop new methods, to continue to lead this fight. We must increase our focus on prevention, and on implementing our programmes and improving enforcement of laws, rules and codes. Our movement is strengthened not just by the common mission that binds us together, but by the diversity of views and experiences that distinguish us. Together we have the skills, the knowledge, the experience and the tools, and we have considerable successes to build on. Now we must replicate these successes around the world. And I believe that together, we will.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Investigative journalism: exposing corruption

By Amber Poroznuk



A free and independent media is fundamental to democracy, and to ensuring public access to information. Journalists help to protect against the abuse of entrusted power for private gain and inform the public about corrupt activity. Their reports are the window through which citizens can view and understand the activities of public officials and corporate executives, and call them to account. Investigative reporting is essential to good governance.

According to the Committee to Protect Journalists, an independent non-profit organisation dedicated to protecting press freedom, 58 reporters around the world are known to have been assassinated in 2005 because of their investigative work; 14 of these murders were related to investigations of corruption. Two journalists have already met the same fate in 2006. For full information, click here: www.cpj.org/killed/killed06.html.

Journalists attempting to expose corruption lay their lives on the line. They may be threatened, harassed, kidnapped, jailed, terrorised, injured or murdered. This is especially the case when their reporting comes into conflict with powerful political or business interests. Reporters Without Borders, another organisation that monitors violence against journalists, has reported an additional four journalists attacked and/or arrested in response to their coverage of corruption in 2006. See: www.rsf.org.

Many factors beyond physical violence inhibit journalists attempting to expose corruption: political resistance and the absence of laws guaranteeing access to information, a repressive legal framework, the lack of independent judiciary, and a concentration of media ownership in the hands of a few. Journalist training and sufficient compensation must also be addressed if journalists are to have the necessary professional skills to report on corruption.

The role of journalists in countering corruption

Journalists often play a direct role in fighting corruption, by 'breaking' a corruption scandal or producing reports that bring unethical behaviour to public attention. News reports can be an important motivation for official bodies charged with investigating or prosecuting corrupt acts; they can prompt the resignation of public officials. In Peru, the media played a central role in exposing the corruption that led to the ouster of President Alberto Fujimori; in the Philippines, news reports on the unexplained wealth of President Joseph Estrada were a key factor in his eventual downfall.

When journalists seek to expose entrenched political and economic interests, especially when those interests are shrouded in secrecy, they may face considerable physical risk. Political retaliation can range from simple disregard for transparency obligations or discrimination against particular journalists and news outlets, to a government's outright abuse of its legal and regulatory powers in an attempt to intimidate or silence the media.

Even without overt state censorship, self-censorship by journalists remains a problem. Where the state is not able to guarantee the safety of journalists, or is complicit in corruption, journalists may decide not to criticise for fear of violent retribution. The situation of self-censorship is critical in Latin America, particularly in Colombia, and in Mexico along the US border, as well as in Brazil and Venezuela. Investigative reporting is generally more dangerous in rural than in urban settings. The extent of self-censorship in Latin America, where lawlessness, drug trafficking, smuggling and organised crime continue to spread, is worrisome, reports Carlos Lauria of the Committee to Protect Journalists. "There is no freedom of expression without guarantees to exercise journalism," says Heriberto Cantu, Editorial Director of *El Manana*. www.cpj.org/attacks05/americas05/americas05.html

Access to information laws help uncover corruption

Just as there can be no freedom of expression without a free press, true freedom cannot exist when access to information is denied. Unfettered access helps to maintain balance between the state and the people by enabling journalists and citizens alike to monitor government activities. Access to information helps journalists uncover corruption and mismanagement, helps make citizens aware of their rights, facilitates access to services and enables them to hold their government and public bodies accountable.

The right to know is a basic human right, enshrined in Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. It is also a precondition to democratic government and to good governance, and a means of preventing corruption. Although Article 19 states that "everyone should have the ... freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers ..., through any media ... of his choice", in reality many national legal frameworks continue to restrict the fundamental rights to know and to publish. An enabling legal framework, marked by robust freedom of expression and access to information laws, is essential to the proper functioning of the media. Without them, considerable obstacles are placed in the path of journalists attempting to investigate corruption.

The struggles and frustrations of journalists and others blocked in their investigations as a result of repressive legislation are well reported. But what of good news stories of where the opposite is true; where access to information legislation did help to uncover instances of corruption?

A new freedom of expression law came into force in the United Kingdom on 1 January 2005, allowing anyone, with few exceptions, to request and receive information from any public body in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The *BBC*'s website, www.bbc.co.uk/foinews, brings together news reports facilitated by this law, among them an account of how foreign women travel to the UK to give birth in the UK's health care system then leave the country without paying.

A new right to information act in India allowed concerned citizen Dr Rakesh Ranjan access to the official documents necessary to investigate rumours of corruption in an International Labour Organisation funded education project for child labourers. Under the new law, Dr Ranjan received information about the cost of supplies for education kits, and discovered that the prices were highly inflated, and that many kits were empty or of lower quality. Dr Rakesh's official complaint is still awaiting response from the Madhya Pradesh State Government.

More than 60 countries have signed access to information laws. Transparency International lobbies for freedom of expression laws in countries that lack them, and for rigorous enforcement in countries where they do exist. For more information, click on www.transparency.org/global_priorities/access_information.

How does the anti-corruption movement support investigative journalism?

A number of TI programmes support investigative journalists, including awards, journalism training, and activities promoting access to information.

At the international level, the Transparency International **Integrity Awards**, established in 2000, recognise the courage and determination of individuals and organisations fighting corruption around the world. Twenty seven activists from around the world have received the award; seven of them were journalists. That five of those seven were awarded posthumously is testimony to their courage in the face of grave personal danger.

- ◆ Manik Chandra Saha was killed in a bomb attack on 15 January 2004 after reporting on crime and political corruption in Bangladesh.
- ◆ In 2003, Abdelhaï Beliardouh of Algeria was kidnapped and tortured by an armed gang for his reports of corruption in cross-border trade.
- ◆ Carlos Alberto Cardoso was assassinated on 22 November 2000 as he investigated the largest banking fraud in Mozambique's history.
- ◆ Georgiy Gongadze of Ukraine was found mutilated, burnt and beheaded in November 2000 after repeatedly criticising the Ukrainian government and then-President Leonid Kuchma.
- ◆ Norbert Zongo of Burkina Faso was assassinated in 1998 while investigating allegations linking the president's brother to a murder.

Each of these dedicated journalists gave his life for his commitment to the truth. More on their courageous acts and tragic endings can be found at: www1.transparency.org/integrityawards/winners/winners.html

The Transparency International Latin America and the Caribbean and Instituto Prensa y Sociedad **Journalism Award** recognises an outstanding investigative report on corruption in the Latin American or Caribbean media, offering a first prize of US \$25,000 and two US \$5,000 second prizes, made possible through a contribution from the Open Society Institute.

National awards include TI Thailand's **Best Investigative Journalism Award** and TI Korea's **Transparency Awards**, where one of last year's winners, MBC-TV reporter Lee Sang-ho, was honoured for his breakthrough report on the National Intelligence Service's illegal 1997 wiretapping of politicians, businessmen and journalists. The report provoked an investigation by the state prosecutor.

Following an October 2005 conference with TI national chapters, journalists from Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Gambia, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal and Togo created a regional network called "**African Network of Journalists for Integrity and Transparency**" (**RAJAIT**). RAJAIT involves journalists in the fight against corruption and is intended to increase support for and solidarity between journalists. The conference was organised with the support of Development Cooperation Ireland.

Media training for investigative journalists has been undertaken in many countries. TI Vanuatu is working with a media expert from VSO Philippines. Poder Ciudadano, TI's national chapter in Argentina, has held virtual workshops on social journalism. TI Lebanon recently hosted two workshops to improve access to information and promote the development of

independent, non-state-financed media. In 2004, workshops in Ecuador, Panama, Paraguay and Venezuela trained journalists to use access to information laws as tools to investigate corruption.

A number of TI chapters in new European Union member states held seminars and training for journalists on the issue of EU structural funds, within the framework of the TI Transparency through Awareness (TTA) Project. This is a complex and unwieldy subject area, with varying levels of access to information. Proficient media reporting is extremely important: it fosters transparency and accountability in the funds' management. In a recent public campaign, TI Lithuania urged greater transparency on the use of EU funds. The campaign, "They Do Not Want You to Know", began in early April and was kicked off by symbolically covering up public transport stops.

TI chapters in Argentina, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Paraguay, Uruguay, and Vanuatu are promoting **access to information legislation**. The AMAN coalition in Palestine has worked on the first draft access to information law in the Arab world, and TI's chapter in Peru, Proética, advises citizens on their rights to information.

Chapters also produce **publications** to encourage access to information and a free press. These include a manual developed by Poder Ciudadano on how to monitor the media during elections, a book on the right to information in Costa Rica, a citizen's manual on access to public information in Guatemala, and a [Green Book on access to information](#) by TI Lebanon.

Other Transparency International publications on the role of the media in countering corruption and on access to information include the [Global Corruption Report 2003](#) on access to information and the *Anti-Corruption Handbook's* section on the media. The *Handbook* contains recommendations for strengthening the media's role in investigating and exposing corruption. For more information, click here: www.transparency.org/policy_research/ach/non_governmental/media_discussion

TRANSPARENCY & CULTURE

By Amber Poroznuk



Corruption and Culture: Political cartoons

Everyone loves a good laugh, especially when they can relate to its subject: laughing at common experiences, annoyances or injustices makes difficult situations more bearable and can help take the sting out of them. It makes it easier to recognise that our problems are not unique. Cartoons and caricatures about corruption, fraud and other unscrupulous activities work well for just that reason: those who have experienced corruption can relate directly, while those who have not can appreciate the humour and increase their awareness of the issue. TI Moldova organises a cartoon exhibit each year on April Fools Day to highlight corruption. Anti-corruption cartoons also feature in their monthly informational bulletin and on their website at: www.transparency.md/Gallery/index.htm.

Political cartoonists Alex Dimitrov and Ion Matu of Moldova share their experiences

TI: Why did you decide to draw about corruption?

AD: Everything connected with peoples' lives is interesting to cartoonists. The theme of corruption is no exception, especially in Moldova where it is very prevalent. I am deeply concerned about this theme as a citizen, because corruption interferes with the normal development of a community.

IM: The existence of the phenomenon of corruption in most societies, on one hand, and the cooperation offered by Transparency International Moldova on the other, led me to draw about corruption. Factors such as inspiration, talent and the fact that I never want to be indifferent about what happens in our society motivated me to start drawing cartoons generally.



TI: Corruption is not usually seen as funny. How can humour help to fight it?

AD: In my view, the purpose of cartoons is not to fight corruption, but rather to be educational and in doing so, to make people less tolerant of corruption.

IM: I think that cartoons play an important role in fighting corruption by sensitising both the public and officials on this issue. If cartoons are really well done, they offer an ironic and critical dimension to corruption, which is very important.



TI: *Have you personally had experience with corruption that motivates you to draw about it?*

AD: Like other parents, I have been indirectly forced to pay bribes as a contribution to the “school fund” - gifts and hospitality - at my son’s school.

TI: *Where do you publish your cartoons? Do you submit them to newspapers or magazines, and if so, have they ever been rejected for political reasons?*

AD: I mainly publish my cartoons in the opposition newspapers because the official press is not interested in publishing them. If cartoons about corruption do show up in the official press - rarely - they are very neutral, not concrete.

IM: My cartoons have been published in different mass media, both newspapers including *Post – Scriptum, Literatura si Arta, Jurnal de Chisinau, Timpul, Vocea Poporului, Facia, Dreptul* - and magazines - *Chiparus, Pardon* - which are very much appreciated by readers in the Republic of Moldova.



TI: *Have you ever been asked not to print a specific cartoon?*

AD: Sometimes editors refused to publish my cartoons, saying that they are too rigid. This meant I was targeting high level officials too directly or openly. But the actual persons involved in the political corruption I drew about have never tried to exert pressure on me

IM: I have never been forced not to publish a cartoon by either state officials, or by a newspaper or magazine.



TI: *Do cartoons, through the use of humour, have a greater ability to sensitise people to corruption?*

AD: Caricature always has a certain resonance in the developed community. It is very popular among different segments of the population, and also among political leaders – Helmut Kohl, for example. Unfortunately, here in Moldova caricature is valued only by a small circle of cultured people, while other parts of the population do not have access to the information. In the countryside (which is most of the territory) people can buy only the official, government press, where caricatures are not printed.

IM: Cartoons represent a way of presenting reality in a different way, more ironic, with satire and humour.

TI: Do you know of any cartoons that have changed public opinion - that got public officials or others to change their behaviour?

AD: In Moldova, caricature cannot influence the decisions of public officials due to their complete disregard for public opinion, and for caricature in particular. Our population is deeply disappointed in the authorities: they are untalented, worthless and corrupted.

However, sometimes our officials react to cartoons on their own. For example, one of my anti-corruption cartoons was placed on a TI Moldova billboard, coincidentally opposite of the house of a former mayor. The billboard mysteriously disappeared almost as soon as it was put up.

BIOGRAPHIES

Alex Dimitrov has been a professional cartoonist since 1995. He graduated with a degree in philosophy from the State University of Kishinev. His cartoons have appeared in the majority of Moldovan national publications and on a number of websites: www.un.org/russian/av/radio/latenews.htm, www.ifes.md, www.e-democracy.md, www.transparency.md, www.anekdot.ru, www.caricatura.ru.

Ion Matu began to submit caricatures for publication while working as a policeman. His first cartoons were published in 1978 in the newspaper *Literatura si Arta*. His work has appeared in exhibits in Belgium, Romania, Russia, and Ukraine. A talented and passionate artist, he has contributed over 1,500 caricatures to TI Moldova.

Are you an artist? Have you been motivated to take action because of a political cartoon or caricature? Want to share your work or experience with the anti-corruption movement? Has the use of humour affected your view of corruption? Send responses to: aporoznuk@transparency.org. We may feature them in a future edition of Transparency Watch.

CORRUPTION Q & A

By Gypsy Guillén Kaiser



Digging for public information in Russia: a conversation with Walter Mayr, Moscow Bureau Chief, Der Spiegel

Five years ago, Gazprom, a state-controlled company that is the world's third richest corporation, took over Russia's NTV television station in what was widely viewed as a Kremlin-orchestrated move to stifle criticism of the government. The purchase was followed by the departure of many of NTV's leading journalists and a dramatic muting of the critical coverage for which it was known. News reports of a Moscow protest in April over the government's grip on the media indicate that all nationwide networks have now come under tight state control. Gazprom recently purchased Izvestiya, one of Russia's most respected newspapers, pushing the state's control of the media into the print press.

Transparency International's interview with Walter Mayr, correspondent in Russia for the German newsmagazine Der Spiegel, suggests that in Russia, information is difficult if not entirely impossible to access, and bribes are the norm of daily life.

TI: *Have you faced difficulties accessing public information, or information that should be public, in Russia? If so, how do these difficulties play out and what do you do about them?*

WM: Difficulties accessing public information are the core problem a correspondent faces in Russia. Things have been aggravated within the last years by the Kremlin's drastic measures to cut down all aspects of civil society. In parliament, Russia is coming close to one-party rule [*United Russia, President Putin's political party*]. NGOs are increasingly being threatened and observed. The separation of power -executive, legislative, judicial - is rather weak. The amount of potential and traditional journalistic sources, for example, people inside the power structures, unsatisfied with what is happening and therefore willing to talk, is exceptionally limited in Russia. Big deals like the pipeline project from Siberia to the Pacific Ocean (valued at some US \$16 billion) or the gas business with Ukraine and the rest of Europe are decided and promoted in very small, closed circles.

What do I do about that? As any journalist, keep digging, staying in contact with those local journalists who keep doing investigative work and cooperating with the remaining NGOs.

TI: *How does the amount of access that you obtain as a foreign correspondent compare with that of your local colleagues?*

WM: It depends on the correspondent, but generally speaking, it's of course far less. Nevertheless, this is not the main problem, because reading something substantial in Moscow's morning papers, checking it and using it afterwards doesn't take long. "Exclusive" investigations by foreign correspondents are, in my opinion, a rare thing even in western countries.

TI: *Has the recent increase in restrictions on NGOs affected your consultation of these organisations for background information or possible story leads?*

WM: No, those who were here before and willing to talk, are still here and willing to talk. The new legislation might affect our work as soon as it prevents some NGOs from continuing their activities.

TI: *You were one of six reporters that reconstructed the siege on Beslan's School No.1 for Der Spiegel. As part of that project, you researched the terrorists' background in Ingushetia and Chechnya. How cooperative were the authorities?*

WM: Our investigation began soon after the tragedy. At that moment, the authorities didn't even have a common position on what had happened. I think most of the local authorities in the Caucasus were still waiting for the Kremlin version. By the way, the official investigation by the Duma Committee has not been published to this day. Having said this, the authorities did what they are accustomed to doing with journalists; keep them guessing, spreading rumours, describing the enormous amount of work they have dedicated to the fight against terrorism in the past. Correspondents in Russia have to work with methods appropriate for the country, for example, balancing statements of the Federal Security Service (FSB) with those of the Interior Ministry and Ministry of Defence. There is substantial rivalry between the different "Siloviki", or strongmen, in different branches and comparing their versions of what had happened in Beslan may give hints to find out the truth.

TI: *What other effects did this have on your research?*

WM: You have to multiply the number of sources, especially among ordinary people involved. Official confirmation or assistance is virtually non-existent and the way to ask for it is time-consuming. Typical responses: "Please ask written questions", "We'll call you then"; "No fax received"; "The one in charge is hospitalised".

TI: *What role did corruption play in the Beslan siege?*

WM: Corruption most probably opened the door for the terrorists to come to Beslan. The border where they crossed into North Ossetia from Ingushetia is a well-known and well-observed smugglers' transit road. Without having bribed police in the border region, they could not have gone unnoticed.

TI: *You wrote a story in October 2005 entitled, "Spinning Out of Control in Dagestan" which said the government is "collapsing under a mountain of corruption". It seems based on a report to President Putin by one of his envoys. Did that report come to you voluntarily or was it public? Is it standard practice to make such documents public? Have you faced difficulty obtaining government reports?*

WM: The document was public at the time my article was published. It was leaked to the press shortly after having been handed over to Putin by his envoy to the South of Russia, Dmitry Kozak. This is not standard practice in this country and therefore caused considerable repercussions. The very fact that this document was "leaked" was mostly seen as an indication of how serious the situation in Dagestan is. Usually, government reports of this kind are labelled classified.

TI: *How much corruption have you encountered in the Caucasus, and in what areas is it more challenging to research?*

WM: Corruption is an everyday phenomenon in the Caucasus. Money helps to resolve any sort of problem. Terrorists pay in order to be allowed through roadblocks, businessmen pay in order to be given first-class investment sites, parents pay in order to prevent their sons from being drafted for the Chechen war. The most challenging aspect of this phenomenon is that it is a practice almost generally agreed on. Where nobody openly complains or no longer complains, because of the risks involved with openly complaining about something that ties society together, there is not much room left for public confidence in the power structures.

TI: *What, in your opinion, are the most underreported corruption stories in Russia?*

WM: Maybe underreported because difficult to prove, however, regularly asserted: corruption on the highest state level, starting with government officials taking money just for meeting with foreign investors, and with high-profile members of the Kremlin administration being deeply involved in multi-billion-dollar-projects. It's enough to compare the official salaries of those in power with their barely concealed life-style.

TI: *Have you had any personal experiences of corruption? What were they?*

WM: Petty corruption is everywhere, every day, visible for everyone. Your wife is going to give birth to a child, and you want both of them to survive: drop something extra for the head of the clinic. You broke some traffic rule: drop something extra in cash in the policeman's car, but never expect him to touch it, as long as you are near. You need an urgent visa for a family member (urgent means within less than two weeks): refer to the mostly underpaid people in the ministries, who know how to solve the problem, even within a day.

Der Spiegel (www.spiegel.de) is the leading German newsmagazine.

Anti-Corruption Work Around the World

Highlighting the work of the anti-corruption movement, championing a world free of corruption:

- [Transparence France pushes for follow up on Oil-for-Food report](#)
- [Development Committee calls for deepening the fight against corruption](#)
- [10 years of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption](#)

Transparence France pushes for follow up on Oil-for-Food report

by Kate Sturgess



Transparence France has sent a letter to Philippe Douste-Blazy, France's Minister of Foreign Affairs, stressing TI's concern about alleged embezzlement in the UN Oil for Food Programme. The letter follows passage by TI's Annual Membership Meeting of a resolution calling for retention of all records related to the Independent Inquiry Committee, led by Paul Volcker, into the programme.

An interview in *Le Monde* with chapter president Daniel Lebègue stressed the need for an adequate response from the French Government to the serious issues raised in the inquiry.

The Minister's response underlined the French authorities' resolve to launch prosecutions as a result of the inquiry and recalled that France supported retention of the records to make them available for prosecutors. France seems to be standing by this pledge. Recently, French investigating judge Philippe Courroye sent portions of the Volcker report and other documents to Paris prosecutors, allowing them to start an investigation into French companies suspected of corruption in the programme. Of the more than 2,200 companies from 40 countries listed in the Volcker report, 172 were French.

While France is the first European country to see such results, other TI national chapters have been following up with their respective authorities. For further information or to exchange information, please contact TI France at transparence@online.fr.

IMF Development Committee calls for deepening the fight against corruption

by Amber Poroznuk



The 22 April communiqué of the Development Committee of the World Bank-IMF Spring Meetings puts corruption high on the agenda. Paragraph six of the communiqué follows in full below.

"Promoting good governance, including fighting corruption, and mutual accountability are essential to efforts to achieve the MDGs. We agreed on the need for efforts to improve governance in all countries, to help build effective states with strong national systems and to work together on implementing global initiatives to improve governance, increase transparency and build demand for good governance at the country level in a way that strengthens ownership. The [World] Bank and [International Monetary] Fund should play a full supporting role. We asked the Bank to further develop disaggregated and actionable indicators in areas such as quality of public financial management, and procurement practices. We noted the diagnosis in the Global Monitoring Report that a significant level of corruption is a symptom of

poor governance. Building on work over the last decade, we called on the Bank to lay out a broad strategy, to be discussed at our next meeting, for helping member countries strengthen governance and deepen the fight against corruption, working closely with the Fund, other multilateral development banks and the membership, to ensure a coherent, fair and effective approach. This strategy should lead to clear guidelines for operations.”

Ten Years OAS Convention

by Marta Erquicia



The Inter-American Convention against Corruption of the Organisation of American States (OAS) has celebrated its tenth anniversary. When the first 22 countries signed in 1996, they committed to pursue measures and legal reforms to prevent and punish corruption, cooperating with one another on legal prosecutions. This was the first international agreement to specifically address corruption on every scale.

Over the past ten years, civil society has played a major role in holding the current 33 [signatory states](#) to their [anti-corruption commitments](#). In March, Transparency International presented its [recommendations](#) on strengthening the Convention's monitoring to the Committee of Experts of the Follow-up Mechanism, the formal follow-up entity established under the Convention. These recommendations included the need for governments to publicly demonstrate how they have implemented the Convention, with both a description of legal changes and state practices, and statistical information that reflects concrete results.

At the March 2006 meeting, the Committee of Experts presented the approved methodology for monitoring implementation. According to TI's Americas Department, it shows some improvement but is insufficient to ensure compliance with the Convention. Transparência Brasil presented its [independent report](#) on compliance with the Convention, stressing the need for an access to information law in Brasil. A report by [Transparencia Venezuela](#) evaluated the progress of countries on implementing recommendations.

For the Convention's tenth anniversary, the *Nuevo Herald* published an op-ed by Huguette Labelle: *The Future of the Americas Depends on the Anti-corruption Fight*. Click here to read the [op-ed](#) and the accompanying [feature story](#).

Corruption in the News

The month's biggest corruption news stories:

[World Bank increases anti-corruption effort](#)

[Corruption in Bulgaria may delay EU entry](#)

[Health programme loans withheld because of unhealthy corruption](#)

World Bank increases anti-corruption efforts

By Christian Pfeipher



The *International Herald Tribune* and other international dailies report that World Bank president Paul Wolfowitz announced on 11 April his intention to push the fight against corruption to the centre of the Bank's global efforts. Speaking in Jakarta, Indonesia, he stressed that corruption remained "one of the biggest threats to development in many countries".

All Africa reports that the World Bank also plans to scrutinize the role of private firms in "exporting corruption" and to punish them where it is detected. The *International Herald Tribune* reports that the Bank has decided to freeze loans to several countries highly affected by corruption, including India, Kenya and Chad. Strong criticism of this strategy from Hilary Benn, UK Secretary of State for International Development, appears in a *Financial Times* article: "Only poor people will be affected".

Critics stressed that the Bank should concentrate more on the supply side of corruption. A 20 April *Reuters* story quotes Max Lawson, policy advisor at Oxfam International: "Where the Bank can really deliver is by naming and shaming big companies that pay bribes." *Reuters* further reports allegations by Steve Hellinger of Development GAP that the World Bank facilitated control of public infrastructure and other assets in borrowing countries by U.S. companies and other World Bank shareholders for 60 years.

According to *Reuters*, the Bank's member states backed its anti-corruption agenda but insisted on a stronger voice in its implementation.

Corruption in Bulgaria may delay EU entry

By Kristi Benedict



Bulgaria's ability to control corruption and organised crime and reform its judicial system will be deciding factors in whether the country will be allowed to join the European Union as planned in January 2007, says *The Sofia Echo*.

Postponing Bulgaria's accession until 2008, although a possibility, remains unlikely. The *Financial Times* reports that "such a move would have to be approved unanimously by the 25 member states, a highly unlikely scenario given that countries such as Britain and Poland want Bulgaria and Romania to join on schedule next year". Bulgarian Prime Minister Sergei Stanishev has expressed concern over possible postponement, commenting to the *BBC* in late March that: "A postponement would cause disappointment towards the EU. It would deprive the Union of credibility and could have a negative effect on the fragile development of the West Balkans". *The Guardian* notes that delaying membership

might “make no difference and might set back reform programmes”.

Olli Rehn, the EU’s enlargement minister, has indicated that Bulgaria needs to do more to reform its judicial branch and to tackle corruption and organised crime if it plans to join on schedule. In mid-April *Agence France Presse* indicated that Mr Rehn had “serious concerns about the rule of law in the country. We need concrete tangible results in fighting high-level corruption and organised crime to show that nobody is above the law”.

The *BBC* reported in late March that Bulgaria claimed to be making progress against corruption, as “nine Bulgarian members of Parliament [were] under investigation for corruption”. Bulgaria also has a new anti-corruption body and has appointed a public prosecutor. The *Irish Times* noted that “Bulgaria’s parliament did approve amendments that aim to increase accountability in the country’s lumbering courts and prosecution service which have failed to reduce the grip of organised crime on every level of business and politics”.

The European Commission will decide on 16 May if Bulgaria will join as scheduled.

Health programme loans withheld because of unhealthy corruption

By Kristi Benedict



The World Bank withheld more than half a billion US dollars in loans to India in early April because of potential corruption in health projects. *The Times of India* reported that the Bank “has suspended US \$800 million worth of loans to India’s health sector after detecting corruption in procurement”.

Agence France Presse indicated that the programme in question is the Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) programme, intended to combat child and maternal mortality. The *Indian Express* indicated that “the Bank has also postponed consideration of the second phase of the RCH and two other programmes, the Second National Tuberculosis Control Project and the Karnataka Health Systems Project”.

What does this mean for India, the worlds’ largest democracy? The *Indian Express* claimed that “at this time there exist two Indias – the India of high technology and exciting services and consumer class-led growth, and the India of depressing poverty lagging regions, appalling public services, and avoidable human misery”. The paper indicated that “money dispersed is often taken as a mark of money well-spent”. Michael Carter, the World Bank’s director for India, indicated to *Agence France Press* that “corruption has gutted many ambitious and expensive public welfare programmes in India”. The *Times of India* writes: “The Bank may have just discovered corruption, but it is no news at all to the public”.

India Today reported that the government has put 14 safeguards in place to ensure greater transparency in the programme. Even the United Kingdom’s Department for International Development has “concurred with the safeguards and expressed its unhappiness at the delay in the approval of the project by the Bank”.

NEWS FROM THE ANTI-CORRUPTION MOVEMENT

By Amber Poroznuk

Huguette Labelle joins Board of United Nations Global Compact

Huguette Labelle, Chair of Transparency International, has accepted the invitation of United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan to join the Board of the UN Global Compact, a voluntary corporate citizenship initiative with over 3000 corporate and stakeholder members. In this role, she will seek to further foster the principles of transparency and accountability in concert with the private sector.



Devendra Raj Panday released from prison

Dr. Devendra Raj Panday, a member of Transparency International's Advisory Council and a former president of Transparency International Nepal, was released from prison on 25 April after more than 90 days of illegal detention. He was held for having demanded a return to democracy, civil and political rights, and dismissal of the unconstitutional government. TI Nepal and the TI Secretariat have been in contact with Dr. Panday, who confirms that he is in good health. He wishes to thank all in the TI movement for their support and solidarity.



TI awarded prestigious Partnership Programme Agreement

Transparency International has been awarded a Partnership Programme Agreement with the UK's Department for International Development (DFID). The agreement, which will run from July 2006 through April 2011, will deliver increased resources to Transparency International of up to GBP 1 million per year. It does not affect existing relationships and funding arrangements between national chapters and DFID. It confers special status within DFID for TI, and may open new avenues for cooperation and influence at all levels. Questions or comments? awarburton@transparency.org.



Transparencia Paraguay pushes transparent bidding in procurement

Transparencia Paraguay organised a roundtable discussion on construction of a new hydroelectric power station with representatives from all sectors. Since 2005, the chapter has alleged that the project's bidding process was not transparent. The roundtable identified a lack of transparency, a lack of equity and a lack of sovereignty. As Transparencia Paraguay pressed for an investigation, civil society protested, leading the parliaments of Paraguay and Argentina to ask their governments for clarification. This contributed to the president's decision to halt the bidding process.



Arrest of journalist threatens press freedom in Vanuatu

Transparency International Vanuatu has condemned the arrest of a journalist, saying it threatens press freedom in Vanuatu. On 27 March, seven policemen arrested *Daily Post* publisher Marc Neil-Jones after his newspaper published an article about an assault on *Post* reporter Samuel Taffo by police officers during a rugby match. Taffo was attacked after photographing rough behaviour by rugby players against their opponents, according to the article. TI Vanuatu is calling on members of Parliament to introduce a bill recognising press freedom and the right to information.



Oil and gas company signs Integrity Pact in India

On 17 April, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation became the first Indian company to sign an Integrity Pact with Transparency International. The Pact was signed by company Chairman and Managing Director Subir Raha and Admiral R.K. Tahlani, former Chief of Naval Staff and chairman of TI India. The company had used the Pact since July 2005. Developed by TI, the Integrity Pact is a tool to prevent corruption in public contracting.



Vote buying in Latvia

Spring 2005 municipal elections were overshadowed by corruption scandals as political candidates were found to have engaged in vote buying in the Latvian towns of Rēzekne and Jūrmala. The administrative court annulled the results in Rēzekne and ordered a new election. Results in Jūrmala, an exclusive resort town on the Riga Gulf coast, were also contested, although the results were not overturned by the court. Transparency International



Latvia discovered that politicians and closely connected business people engaged in bribery to ensure that the “right” mayor of Jūrmala was elected. The case is pending before the courts. TI Latvia has requested that politicians clearly state their views on the allegations.

Anti-Corruption education initiative in Peru

Since June 2005, Proética, TI's national chapter in Peru, has run a programme to develop citizen watchdog skills in 150 teenagers and 75 children in Ferreñafe. The programme teaches transparency, ethics and democratic governance, as well as communication skills. Students evaluated seven programmatic areas, such as the Municipal Sanitary Service and access to public information, and developed best-practice recommendations. These were then delivered to the relevant authorities, who welcomed and adopted the results. The programme succeeded on many levels, contributing to good government practices and changing the attitudes of youth involved in the programme. Proética plans to repeat the programme in 2006 in other regions of Peru, integrate it into education institutions and train teachers.



TI Ireland forms partnership with leading university

In March, Transparency International Ireland announced its partnership with the School of Business, Trinity College, Dublin, to establish and manage an anti-corruption resource centre at the university. The programme will prepare representatives of the private sector, government and non-profit organisations to manage risk and prevent corruption. Dr. Gerard McHugh, Head of Trinity's School of Business, said: "Irish businesses alone are losing €2 billion a year from economic crime. This partnership will offer support to TI Ireland's research and education programmes while keeping the School of Business at the cutting edge of anti-corruption education". A website and electronic newsletter can be found at www.transparency.ie. The chapter will also publish a National Integrity System Country Study in October.



New Boards of Directors for TI Israel and TI Ireland

TI Israel, Shvil, held elections for its Board of Directors in March. Shvil's general assembly decided to hold open three of the 15 seats for public figures who will be invited to join to help elevate Shvil's profile and goals. Professor Joseph Gross was re-elected as Chair; Arie Avneri, Doron Greenberg, Ahmad Massarawa, Zeev Pipel and Dr Lea Shilo were also re-elected. The following new members were elected: Dr Avshalom Adam, Doron Navot, Yehuda Porath, Jacob Sabo, Dr Efrat Tulkowsky and Varda Zilberberg. Further information can be found at www.ti-israel.org.



At TI Ireland's first annual meeting, Colm McCarthy, who has led the chapter since November 2004, stepped down as Chair, replaced by Patrick D'Arcy. Mr McCarthy was elected Treasurer, Noeleen Hartigan, was elected Vice Chair. Dr Louis Brennan and Michael Smith were also elected to the board.

Upcoming Integrity Pact promotes transparent procurement in Pakistan

The National Bank of Pakistan and TI Pakistan have signed a memorandum of understanding for the implementation of an Integrity Pact to promote transparency in the bank's procurement system. The bank will establish a mechanism to ensure accountability in all its dealings and to provide checks and balances to contribute to transparent procurement. The bank has approximately 10 million accounts.



TI Bangladesh diagnoses corruption

Transparency International Bangladesh will publish more than a dozen diagnostic reports on widespread corruption in service delivery organisations between June and December this year. The plan was disclosed in a meeting between TI Bangladesh and the newly formed group, Reporters against Corruption.



Congress under the magnifying glass in Argentina

In March, Poder Ciudadano, TI's national chapter in Argentina, presented the results of its 2005 monitoring of Congress, which shows little improvement in increasing citizens' involvement in the legislative process or adequately publicising information. The quantity of information made available to the public is also inadequate. Poder Ciudadano recommended that Congress designate days for citizens to question their representatives, and proactively distribute information about its members and legislative agenda. Poder Ciudadano has monitored Congress since 2001. To access the full report please visit www.poderciudadano.org.



“Vote Bien” in Colombia

To ensure transparent electoral processes, Transparencia por Colombia launched *Vote Bien*,

involving agreements with two political parties to ensure transparency in political campaign finance. The agreements, signed by *Partido Cambio Radical* and *Polo Democrático Alternativo*, include an internal transparency policy, ethics agreements, and disclosure of the curricula, income and expenditures of campaign finance managers. The website www.votebien.com contains information on campaign results, campaign financing and other issues. The project, funded by USAID through Casals, is led by Transparencia por Colombia, the weekly magazine *Semana*, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung in Colombia and Conexión Colombia.



Task Force on Political Financing in Nicaragua

The Central American Task Force on Political Financing met in Managua, Nicaragua, from 29 March to 1 April to launch a project to monitor November's Nicaraguan presidential and legislative election campaigns. Representatives from TI national chapters and contacts in Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama and the TI Secretariat shared experiences and good practices in monitoring political party finance. As in 2004, Etica y Transparencia, TI's national chapter in formation in Nicaragua, will serve as an independent observer on Election Day. Financial and technical support comes from the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA) and the Americas Department at TI's Secretariat.



International Anti-Corruption Conference 2006: mark your calendar!

With the theme "Towards a fairer world: why is corruption still blocking the way?" the 12th International Anti-Corruption Conference will be held in Guatemala City and Antigua, Guatemala, on 15-18 November. As the premier global anti-corruption event, the IACC serves as a platform for advocacy, a forum to exchange information, and an opportunity to cross-fertilise work and establish coalitions. Four plenary sessions and some 40 workshops will cover the top priorities for the anti-corruption movement. Special events include the Transparency International Integrity Awards and the Latin American Investigative Journalism Award ceremonies. Contact procha@transparency.org or bcarl@transparency.org for further information.



Forest Integrity Network resumes

The Forest Integrity Network has resumed activities, and now has a programme manager at the TI Secretariat. FIN is a multi-stakeholder network, created in 2000 and hosted by TI, which focuses on building coalitions to combat corruption in the forest sector. In partnership with the World Bank's Programme on Forests, FIN produced *Tools for civil society action to reduce forest corruption*, a booklet to promote the use of TI created tools to curb corruption in this sector. FIN is currently looking for companies in the forest sector to work with on promoting the *Business Principles for Countering Bribery*. If your work is related to the forest sector please contact afigari@transparency.org, or click on www.transparency.org/fin.



CORRUPTION IN QUOTES

By Amber Poroznuk

“Bureaucracy is the most profitable business in Russia, and a growth in bureaucrats is usually followed by a growth in corruption,” said Kirill Kabanov, chairman of the National Anti-Corruption Committee, a think tank... The average monthly salary of a medium-level federal bureaucrat is about US \$700, but many take home up to US \$1 million per year, Kabanov said.

The Moscow Times, 13 April 2006

“Corruption is bleeding Africa to death and the cost is borne by the poor. Some estimates put money corruptly leaving the continent at greater than that arriving as aid. Much of the money is banked in Britain or our overseas territories and dependencies and sometimes British citizens or companies are involved in corrupt deals. We want our government to get tough on corruption.”

Hugh Bayley MP, Chair of the United Kingdom’s House of Commons Africa All Party Parliamentary Group, 29 March 2006

In the final years of Saddam Hussein’s dictatorship, he earned more than US \$1.8 billion in kickbacks as a result of the United Nations’ oil for food programme. He brought in billions more by smuggling oil out to Jordan and Syria. Across the country, graft was a precondition of doing business.

The New Yorker, 24 April 2006

Highly paid consultants are draining up to AUD\$ 600,000 a year from Australia’s foreign aid contributions in some countries, according to a World Vision report.

The Advertiser, 18 April 2006

“We calculate that 30 percent to 40 percent of all the [tsunami relief] aid funds, Indonesian and international, have been tainted by graft,” said Akhiruddin Mahjuddin, an accountant who investigates aid spending for the Aceh Anti-Corruption Movement.

The Sunday Times, 16 April 2006

Under Nigerian law, oil revenues go to the federal government, which then passes on a percentage to the states. In 2004, for instance, the 36 Nigerian states received [US] \$6.2 billion. Supposedly, about one-third of that went to the four major oil-producing states. But thanks to theft, corruption and mismanagement, on both the federal and state levels, very little of that money reached the local communities.

New York Times, 16 April 2006

The Parliamentary Committee in Philippines calculated that in 2002, corruption cost the government US\$ 1.9 billion annually - twice the size of the national education budget.

The Statesman, 11 April 2006

COMING UP

By Amber Poroznik

Coming up in May

UN Commission on Sustainable Development, fourteenth session

Date: 01-12 May 2006

Organiser/Contact/Information: www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/review.htm

Place: New York, USA

Asian Development Bank 39th Annual Meeting

Date: 03-06 May 2006

Organiser/Contact: annualmeeting@adb.org

Further information: www.adb.org/AnnualMeeting/2006/default.as

Place: Hyderabad, India

Institute for Public-Private Partnerships Training Event: Democratisation, Governance, and Anti-Corruption Measures: Tools for Policy Reform and Economic Development

Date: 08-19 May 2006

Organiser/Contact: training@ip3.org

Further Information: topics.developmentgateway.org/governance/calendar/

Place: Washington, USA

3rd International Commission against Corruption (ICAC) Symposium

Date: 9-11 May 2006

Organiser/Contact: symposium@icac.org.hk

Further Information: www.icac.org.hk/symposium/program.html

Place: Hong Kong, China

Ethical Aspects of Management in Theory and Practice

Date: 11-13 May 2006

Further Information: www.eamtp-conference.de

Place: Berlin, Germany

2006 Corporate Social Responsibility: Integrating CSR with Business Strategy

Date: 16-17 May 2006

Contact/Organiser/Information: www.conferenceboard.ca/conf/may06/eastern_csr/overview.asp

Place: Toronto, Canada

AFDB Annual Meeting

Date: 17-18 May 2006

Organiser/Contact/Information:

www.afdb.org/portal/page_pageid=313,165588&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL

Place: Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

World Economic Forum on the Middle East

Date: 20-22 May 2006

Organiser/Contact: middleeast@weforum.org

Information:

www.weforum.org/site/homepublic.nsf/Content/World+Economic+Forum+on+the+Middle+East

Place: Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt

Beyond CSR? Business, poverty and social justice

Date: 22 May 2006

Organisation/Contact: www.mubs.mdx.ac.uk/Contact/index.htm
Further Information: www.mubs.mdx.ac.uk/Conferences/BeyondCSR/index.htm
Place: London, UK

World Health Organisation 59th World Health Assembly

Date: 22-27 May 2006
Organiser/Information: www.who.int/gb/e/e_wha59.html
Place: Geneva, Switzerland

"Transparency International: New Perspectives" and Ninth Annual General Meeting

Date: 26 May 2006
Organiser/Contact: ti-can@transparency.ca
Further Information: www.transparency.ca
Place: Toronto, Canada

International Press Institute 2006 World Congress

Date: 27-30 May 2006
Organisation/Contact: info@ipiedinburgh.com
Further Information: www.ipiedinburgh.com
Place: Edinburgh, Scotland

World Economic Forum on Africa 2006

Date: 31 May -2 June 2006
Organisation/Contact: africa@weforum.org
Further Information: www.weforum.org/site/homepublic.nsf/
Place: Cape Town, South Africa

Coming up in June

Organisation of American States General Assembly, 36th Regular Session

Date: 4 -6 June 2006
Organisation/Contact: oasweb@oas.org
Further Information: www.oas.org/36ag/english/#
Place: Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

OECD Sixth International Forum on African Perspectives: "2006, Africa on the Move"

Date: 7 June 2006
Contact: Christian.Maloumby@oecd.org
Further Information: www.oecd.org/department/0,2688,en_2649_15162846_1_1_1_1_1.00.html
Place: Paris, France

Commonwealth Business Council: Globalisation & Sustainable Development Forum 2006

Date: 12 -13 June 2006
Organisation/Contact: zak.osmani@cbcglobal.org
Further Information: www.cbcglobelink.org/cbcglobelink/events/globalisation/overview.htm
Place: London, UK

Wilton Park Conference. Strengthening Democratic Governance: The Role of Civil Society

Date: 12-14 June 2006
Organisation/Contact/Information:
www.wiltonpark.org.uk/themes/economic/conference.aspx?confref=WPS06/10
Place: Sussex, UK

World Economic Forum on East Asia

Date: 15-16 June 2006
Organiser/Contact/Information:
www.weforum.org/site/homepublic.nsf/Content/World+Economic+Forum+on+East+Asia
Place: Tokyo, Japan

WIDER Conference on Aid: Principles, Policies and Performance

Date: 16-17 June 2006
Organiser/Contact: aid-1@wider.unu.edu
Further information: www.wider.unu.edu/
Place: Helsinki, Finland

Business Principles in Trinidad and Tobago

Date: 21 June 2006

Organiser: TI Trinidad and Tobago, TTTI and the Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Commerce

Contact: boydreid@tstt.net.tt

Place: Trinidad and Tobago

 *Transparency International e.V. copyright © 1994-2006*

Transparency Watch

the e-bulletin of the anti-corruption movement

MAY 2006

MASTHEAD

Transparency Watch is a monthly electronic publication of Transparency International. It is produced by the Communications Department.

Transparency International accepts no responsibility for opinions expressed in interviews or for the information provided through external weblinks.

Barbara Ann Clay, Director of Communications

Phone: +49-30-343 82042

Email: bclay@transparency.org

Amber Poroznuk, Online and Publications Editor

Phone: +49-30-343 820664

E-mail: aporoznuk@transparency.org

Transparency International- International Secretariat

Alt-Moabit 96

10559 Berlin, Germany

Phone: +49-30-343 8200

Fax: +49-30-3470 3912

E-mail: ti@transparency.org

Web: <http://www.transparency.org>

 *Transparency International e.V. copyright © 1994-2006*