

WHO IS WHO PARTNERS

Azerbaijan National Democracy Foundation (ANDF) — Baku, Azerbaijan



The Azerbaijan National Democracy Foundation (ANDF) was formed in April 1997 as a non-governmental organization committed to the development of independent political organizations, the strengthening of civil society, and the improvement of the distribution of information about public affairs. The Foundation works to educate Azerbaijani society on the history and evolution of democratic values in Azerbaijan, to teach human rights and democratic principles, and to establish and develop ties among the democratic movements in the region. Additionally, the Foundation remains committed to discouraging the expansion of religious fundamentalism and fanaticism, and campaigns for democracy and human rights in Azerbaijan.

ANDF organizes seminars to educate the public on elections and on the general role of NGOs in the democratic process. ANDF has also worked in cooperation with regional and international organizations to conduct workshops on various topics, such as political institutions, ethics in government, and NGO administration. The Foundation has initiated discussion clubs outside of urban areas in Azerbaijan to stimulate cooperation and democratic development there. For example, in late 2002 and the first three months of 2003, ANDF held more than 12 public forums through a CfP-supported small grants program.

Since 1997, ANDF has published and distributed over 30 publications covering the formation of civil society, the state of democracy, and the development of democratic coalitions in Azerbaijan. The Foundation most recently published the Azerbaijan Democracy Monitor, which reports on all aspects of civil society development in Azerbaijan, including economic, political and social issues, and has been especially useful during election cam-

paigns. This publication was produced in Azeri, English and Russian language editions, and has recently been expanded to internet and e-mail versions to reach a broader audience. Contributors range from NGO activists to journalists to political party representatives.

ANDF will continue its publications, citizen's participation, and educational and seminar activities and it is continuing its activities in the area of promoting free and fair elections, helping to found the SOS '03 NGO coalition, promote public discussions in the regions, and organizing major conferences.

APADOR-CH — Bucharest, Romania



APADOR-CH (the Association for the Defense of Human Rights in Romania-Helsinki Committee), established in 1990, is a non-governmental, non-profit organization that strives to change both legislation and social consciousness in the field of civil and human rights, especially in areas of individual freedoms, the right to privacy, fair trial, access to information, and on the rights of minorities.

APADOR-CH's strategy consists of monitoring and establishing a dialogue with authorities, by acting as a credible source of information for national and international non-governmental and governmental organizations.

The objectives of APADOR-CH are:

- To campaign for the modification of laws with direct impact on civil rights, such as the penal code, the criminal procedure code, the Law on National Security and the laws stemming from it, among others;
- To promote new legislation in the field of free access to information and the protection of personal data, the non-profit sector, protection of the rights of minorities — including ethnic, religious, and sexual minorities — the rights of prisoners, and persons in pre-trial detention;

- To provide assistance to victims of abuses perpetrated by police and by the penitentiary system, assessing objectively the cases and providing legal counseling and/or legal assistance in court

- To raise awareness of the general public on these issues

APADOR-CH accomplishes these goals by, among other activities: (1) providing written comments and suggestions to amend draft bills, especially by providing analysis on bringing Romanian legislation in conformity with European and international human rights conventions and standards; (2) conducting fact-finding missions and preparing reports on conditions of penitentiaries, police lock-ups, cases of torture or abuse, as well as attacks on minorities, (3) dissemination of these reports to proper authorities as well as to elected representatives and other interested parties, including NGOs and the media. Through its work and in coalition with other NGOs, APADOR-CH has had significant impact in the areas of public legislation and public opinion in many of these areas.

APADOR-CH is affiliated with the International Helsinki Federation in Vienna and participates in a wide number of international and European meetings and initiatives in the field of human and minority rights. APADOR-CH has worked in partnership with the Centers for Pluralism since its inception.

Association of Disabled Students — Belgrade, Serbia



The Association of Disabled Students (ADS) is a non-governmental organization founded in 2000 to improve the position of young people and students with disabilities and to facilitate their integration into society. It is the first organization of its kind in Serbia and Montenegro. ADS has a growing network of partner organizations in Belgrade, Nis, Podgorica and Kragujevac, and has around 220 members.

ADS creates awareness of the challenges facing disabled people through media campaigns and publications, including its quarterly bulletin, *Bush*, and actively pursues the improvement of conditions for disabled young people by proposing legal changes and working with university and education officials,

local authorities, and social institutions to create facilities and opportunities for disabled people to break out of their isolation. ADS also organizes workshops and conferences to coordinate cooperation among possible partner organizations and provides psychological and health counseling to disabled young people. It cooperates extensively with other organizations, including Students' Union of Serbia and Volunteer Center Belgrade.

The ADS has ambitious plans for organizing educational outreach centers for disabled youth in order to provide them skills (computer, language, etc.) to obtain employment; providing technical devices to disabled to give them greater opportunity for education and employment; lobbying for greater access and accommodations for the disabled in general, especially at the university; offering psychosocial help to disabled youth; and organizing cultural events that give disabled youth a chance to be part of the student scene. Finally, ADS has established a network of organizations of disabled, concentrating on youth, in the Balkans, hoping that through greater cooperation there can be more progress made for the disabled in the region. It is looking for contacts, ideas, and outreach to similar organizations throughout the region, including former Soviet Union.

Center for Citizenship Education — Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia



The Center for Citizenship Education (CCE) is a non-profit, independent NGO established to make a contribution to the promotion of a democratic and civil society in Mongolia.

CCE was founded in 1992 under the name "Central Asian Development Foundation," which changed into the current name in 1996. The Center has been implementing its project, "Education for Democracy" since 1993.

The Center for Citizenship Education's goals are to contribute to the creation of conditions that will enable citizens of Mongolia to associate freely and actively participate in social, state and government affairs; to promote democratic values; and to enhance teachers' knowledge of democracy and to have them learn new teaching methodologies and techniques.

In pursuit of this goal, CCE has undertaken a variety of effective activities:

- In support of NGOs, CCE promotes new laws on NGOs, and give them professional consultation through seminars and training;
- Publish books and other materials for use of the public, NGO staff, and volunteers
- Set up an NGO clearinghouse which provides central and local NGOs with information regarding Mongolian and foreign NGOs;
- Facilitate secondary school social science teachers' learning of new methodologies and techniques of teaching democracy in classrooms by coordinating programs, with the purpose of helping the Mongolian education system meet the demands of current conditions;
- Write, translate and publish textbooks, pamphlets, and reading books on the subjects of democracy, human rights, jurisprudence, and economics for use by teachers and students of all levels.

Center of Information and Documentation of Crimean Tatars — Kyiv, Ukraine



The Center of Information and Documentation of Crimean Tatars (CIDCT) is a non-governmental, non-commercial organization founded in 2000. The primary task of CIDCT is to develop and disseminate information on:

- the history and modern development of Crimea and the Crimean Tatar people;
- the problems connected with their return to their historic homeland after decades of forced deportation; and
- the restoration of the Crimean Tatar people's political, social, economic and cultural rights within independent Ukraine.

CIDCT publishes the informational journal *Krimski Studii* (Crimean Studies) in English and in Ukrainian, published six times per year. This journal is distributed free of charge to members of the Ukrainian Parliament, ministries and departments of the government (especially the humanitarian offices), libraries of leading high schools of Kyiv and the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, the parliament and Council of Ministers of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, foreign

embassies, and missions of international organizations and NGOs. CIDCT also monitors the Ukrainian mass media on issues related to Crimea and Crimean Tatars. All materials are organized and published in an electronic bulletin, *Crimea Mirrored in Ukrainian Mass Media*, distributed every ten days.

CIDCT conducts research on legal norms and mechanisms related to the situation of Crimean Tatars that can then be used to create legislative initiatives. CIDCT also conducts seminars, round tables and conferences on human rights, national minorities and indigenous peoples' rights. CIDCT opened its own Web site <http://www.cidct.org.ua>, which includes all issues of the informational bulletin *Krimski studii*. In the near future, CIDCT plans to create an electronic library, which will contain the normative legal documents of governmental bodies on the topics of the development of Ukraine and the return and resettlement of the Crimean Tatar people, including the work of both Ukrainian and foreign researchers on Crimean Tatars, Karaites and Krimchaks.

Refat Chubarov, member of the Ukrainian Parliament and the deputy chairman of Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar people, is CIDCT's president and Ayder Ibragimov is executive director. CIDCT strives to extend its circle of partners to increase mutual exchange of experiences and to stimulate cooperation in the realization of projects aimed at building civil society.

Center for Political Studies "Democrat" (CPSD) — Baku, Azerbaijan



The Center for Political Studies "Democrat" (CPSD), established in 1999, is a non-governmental organization dedicated to the promotion and protection of democratic values and ideas and disseminating information about Azerbaijan's democratic movement.

In its four years of existence, CPSD has successfully carried out a number of projects, including the publication of two books and six bulletins and brochures on various subjects related to democratic development in Azerbaijan, including a brochure "Public Relations" and the Azeri translation of the

book "The Second Wave of Reforms in Poland." It published eight issues of an analytical-informational bulletin called "Elections 2000" and starting in 2001 the Bulletin of the Democratic Congress.

Another successful project of CPRD was the establishment of a Hot Line to help protect citizens' electoral rights. During the 2000 parliamentary elections, CPRD's Hot Line became a focal point to collect information on the country-wide cases of violation of election procedures. This project enabled citizens to use Hot Line to quickly report about procedural violations during elections and get legislative advice at no charge. These findings were used to prepare ten comprehensive reports in English and Azeri, which were then publicized locally and internationally. In addition, the Hot Line was used to provide informational support and free legal consultations to the hundreds of citizens. During the August 24, 2002 referendum on constitutional amendments, CPRD set up another Hot Line to help protect voters' rights and prepared and distributed a detailed report on the referendum results in Azerbaijan and abroad.

CPRD helped form and is an active participant in the SOS '03 Election League to help ensure free and fair elections for the 2003 presidential elections and CPRD's director was appointed the SOS '03 coordinator.

Democracy Education Center — Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia



The Democracy Education Center (DEC) is a Mongolian non-governmental, non-profit, non-partisan organization aimed at strengthening civil society through education, promotion of democracy, and support of active citizenship. The mission of the DEC is carried out through two programs: a democracy education program and an NGO support services program.

The DEC started the NGO Support Center project under the auspices of the Asia Foundation. After the NGO law was passed in 1997, the DEC organized a series of workshops, seminars, and NGO networking meetings for Mongolian NGO leaders and personnel throughout the country. In the past years, the DEC has delivered many services to assist Mongolian NGOs by providing information, counseling, and assistance with

resource materials development and its dissemination.

The DEC served as a facilitator and organizer of the "Financial Sustainability of Local NGOs of Mongolia" seminar, initiated and co-sponsored by the Asia Foundation and Peace Winds Japan, with the support of the Grass Roots Development Programme of the Japanese government, which took place in September, 2000 in Ulaanbaatar. As a follow-up activity, the DEC organized a series of regional multi-stakeholder dialogues on NGO capacity-building throughout the country in late 2000.

With support from IDEE, the DEC has recently initiated the publication of a CfP-model *Newsletter* in Mongolian to report on the activities of NGOs in Mongolia, and to provide NGOs with information on contacts abroad, grant opportunities, internships, training, and articles devoted to the current problems and successes of the NGO sector in Mongolia as well as in other countries.

Directorio 5—Cuban Democratic Revolutionary Directorate — Miami, USA



Directorio Cubano Revolucionario Directoria was formed in September 1990 by 200 young Cuban and Cuban-American delegates dedicated to promoting democracy in Cuba. This organization continues the legacy of a movement started in Cuba in the late 1920s and kept alive by pro-democracy Cuban youth in successive "Directorios." The Directorio formed in 1990 became the fifth.

Directorio 5 immediately took to the task of organizing young Cubans and creating an avenue for their active participation in issues that affect the Cuban nation. The organization's mission is:

- To rescue the Cuban national culture by fostering the identification of new generations of Cubans and Cuban-Americans with the Cuban nation;
- To promote freedom and democracy in Cuba in the face of the current dictatorship;
- To involve Cuban youth, inside and outside of Cuba, in the process of eliminating the Castro dictatorship and establishing a new system of democratic government in Cuba.

The Directorio favors non-violent action to weaken the Cuban government from within, creating international support to pressure the Cuban government from without, and uniting those opposing the government inside the island with those outside in order to create an effective force for change. To achieve these goals, the Directorio has pursued numerous avenues including educational lectures, Cuban youth retreats, international campaigns in Latin America and Europe, radio broadcasts to Cuba, grass roots protests, and aiding the Cuban internal opposition.

The Directorio has continued to support the internal opposition movement and participates, together with other exile organizations, in a coalition of support called Concilio Cubano. Concilio Cubano is a project launched inside Cuba to unite the opposition and independent organizations under a single front. The Directorio's "Agreement for Democracy" brought together Cuban, Cuban American, Latin American, and other organizations in a common statement supporting the goals of the Concilio.

The Directorio has launched Operacion Boitel, a campaign aimed at bringing the truth about Cuba to Latin America, especially to the youth. Through this campaign, the Directorio has held seminars on Cuba in the Dominican Republic, Bolivia, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Chile and Mexico and created a coalition of Latin American Committees of Solidarity with Democracy in Cuba.

Today, the Directorio is seeking to expand its activities in all areas, from educating a new generation of Cubans about their identity and role in the struggle, to creating stronger ties with the internal opposition, to expanding Operacion Boitel to other countries in Latin-America and the world. One of its most important initiatives in the last several years was its participation in the Centers for Pluralism Meetings and organizing numerous campaigns with Eastern European democratic leaders in the Czech Republic, Hungary, Estonia, Poland, Romania, and Russia on behalf of Cuban political prisoners and dissidents. A CfP initiative coordinated by Apador-CH's Gabriel Andreescu established the Pedro Luis Boitel Award awarded annually for a Cuban democracy activist. Funds were collected exclusively from among Eastern European NGOs.

Euroregional Center for Democracy - Timisoara, Romania



The Euroregional Center for Democracy (CED) is a non-governmental and non-profit organization founded in 2001 by the Open Society Foundation Romania to promote democracy and stability in Central and Southeastern Europe. Its goals are:

- * To build and consolidate democracy by providing innovative ongoing and long-term opportunities for communication through interactive seminars, workshops, panels, in order to help democratic institutions;

- * To promote partnership between regional, national and local non-governmental organizations and institutions and help them develop regional projects, as well as undertake joint efforts;

- * To strengthen the institutional capacity of the NGO community through programs that ensure the development of available human resources, as well as of the organizational, institutional and legal framework in order to facilitate the elaboration of long-term strategies for viability and sustainability;

- * To raise regional community awareness of common transition-related issues and of the relationship between diversity and democracy by initiating debates on contentious issues in order to overcome prejudices, stereotypes and isolation.

The Euroregional Center for Democracy has organized three annual Regional NGO Fairs, which give civil society representatives from South Eastern Europe the chance to network, share best practices, and discover new areas of cooperation or activity. It organizes training, education for democracy, academic, and other programs related to the region. The Euroregional Center for Democracy is a member of the Soros Open Network, which connects Romanian independent organizations whose common aim is to promote open society values.

Free and Democratic Bulgaria Foundation — Sofia, Bulgaria



The Free and Democratic Bulgaria Foundation (FDBF) is a private and fully independent non-profit organization. Founded on June

14, 1991 by Yvonne and Dimitry Panitza, its Chairman, the Foundation aims to facilitate the process of democratization of Bulgarian society, based on pluralism, free press, free markets, tolerance, an educated youth, and open dialogue.

The Foundation's activities include the establishment of two centers to meet the physical, emotional and educational needs of Sofia's street children and youth; the creation of the first Outward Bound Program in Eastern Europe; civic education programs; and an annual excellence-in-journalism prize, aimed at promoting ethical professional standards in Bulgarian journalism. The Foundation also supports the publication of books that could not otherwise reach the Bulgarian reader.

More recently, the FDBF has become involved with the prevention of drug use and abuse among young people of Bulgaria through lectures in schools and through the dissemination of a guide for parents and teachers, aimed at raising awareness and knowledge on the problem among them.

Since 2001, the Foundation has been implementing, together with the Dutch NGO East West Parliamentary Practice Project, a three-year project to help parliamentarians find mechanisms for gaining community members support for new legislation and to address ways of increasing citizens' involvement in the lawmaking process.

Another initiative of the Foundation is the Bulgarian School of Politics, begun in 2002, which is designed to encourage the creation of a professional political community that will adopt and implement a new democratic model of government. The young politicians participating in the School's seminars acquire new leadership skills and democratic practices of decision-making in an environment of pluralism and tolerance. Participation of politicians with different ideological, ethnic and religious background ensures the formation of a new type of political and social debate pertinent to Bulgaria's sustainable democratic development.

The FDBH was the original home of the first Center for Pluralism and a number of ongoing programs began with the support of the CfP program. FDBH remains an active participant in CfP meetings and initiatives.

Foundation for Defense of Human Rights — Warsaw, Poland



The Foundation for Defense of Human Rights was established in 1998 at the initiative of Senator Zbigniew Romaszewski and Zofia Romaszewska with the specific aim to organize the Third International Conference on Human Rights held in Warsaw, Poland. The International Conference was first organized by the Romaszewskis in 1988 in Nowa Huta under the umbrella of Solidarity's Lawfulness Commission. It gathered for the first time — before the fall of the Berlin Wall — human rights and democracy advocates from throughout the Warsaw Bloc. The second International Conference was organized in 1991 in Leningrad (when conditions made it impossible to hold in Vilnius). The Third International Conference on Human Rights highlighted the continuing human rights crises in countries like Azerbaijan, Cuba, and China, as well as the terrible consequences of Russia's first war in Chechnya.

The FDHR's further mission is to promote human rights and to monitor their observance in countries undergoing transition from communist totalitarianism, such as Poland, Belarus, and Ukraine, as well as in countries where communist regimes remain in power or where the transition from communism has meant the perpetuation of dictatorial rule by former communist or KGB leaders. The Foundation also believes it is very important to share the experiences of the successful fight against the totalitarian systems over the last twenty years with people who are still struggling.

In 2001, following successive trips to Cuba, the FDHR organized a Solidarity poster exhibition throughout the island. The poster exhibition and accompanying brochure described the history of the Solidarity movement struggle of the Polish nation against communism.

GONG — Citizens' United to Monitor Elections — Zagreb, Croatia



GONG is a non-partisan citizens' organization founded in 1997 to encourage citizens to participate actively in political processes. It is a non-profit organization, reliant upon support and donations from many generous donors

from the Croatian and international community.

GONG is involved in several important activities:

- Conducting non-partisan monitoring of election processes;
- Educating citizens about their rights and duties;
- Encouraging mutual communication between citizens and their elected representatives;
- Promoting transparency of work within public services;
- Managing public advocacy campaigns; and
- Encouraging and helping citizens in self-organizing initiatives.

GONG pursues several programs, including its Election Program, Parliament Program and International Relations Program. Programs are divided into several projects. Its Election Program includes: election monitoring, civic education, the "I Vote (Choose) for the First Time" project, and "Election Package." The Parliament Program includes: "Citizens' Hour," "Open Parliament," an internship program, and legal initiatives. The International Relations program includes trainings and consultations, election monitoring abroad, and international exchanges. Accurate information about all GONG projects and activities can be found at www.gong.hr in both Croatian and English.

GONG has participated in CfP meetings and assisted several CfPs and partners in election monitoring efforts, especially in Kosovo.

Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights — Warsaw, Poland



The Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights, located in Warsaw, Poland, was established in 1989. Its emergence was preceded by seven years of work by the Helsinki Committee in Poland, which had operated underground since 1982. In 1989, members decided to establish an independent institute for education, research on human rights, and public interest actions.

The Foundation's six-month postgraduate Human Rights School, established in 1991, now has a total of over 500 graduates from

Central and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, Central Asia, and the West, who continue to use their acquired knowledge in their individual communities. The school's courses are offered in a variety of forms: two-week lectures, workshops within the Summer and Winter Schools on Human Rights, as well as seminars of at least one week, held in Poland or abroad. The Foundation's main focus is to train activists from non-governmental organizations, but the School also offers seminars for Polish and foreign judges, ombudsmen's offices, etc.

The Helsinki Foundation gives professional counseling on matters related to violations of personal and political rights. Experts at the Foundation are especially helpful in assisting those seeking refugee status and residence permits in Poland.

The Foundation is also involved in implementing education programs for the benefit of NGOs and state institutions such as police departments, prisons, frontier guards, etc. Several training courses have been organized by the Foundation have been very successful, attracting attendees from several dozen national NGOs and over 100 foreign organizations.

Based on the cooperation of the over 200 volunteers the Helsinki Foundation has trained, the Foundation monitors human rights observance on a national basis, and organizes public actions on behalf of those rights. The Foundation has implemented several joint programs and activities together with international organizations, organizations in other countries such as national Helsinki Committees, the OSCE, as well as with domestic partners.

The Helsinki Foundation was an original "partner" of the Centers for Pluralism, participating in its Meetings and responding to requests for training and participation in the Human Rights School, hosting interns, and providing information.

Institute for Regional Studies — Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan



The Institute for Regional Studies (previously the Kyrgyz Peace Research Center) is a non-governmental organization founded in Kyrgyzstan in November 1994. The Institute

is committed to supporting democratic processes in Central Asia.

The Institute carries out research, organizes seminars and conferences, and publishes articles and books. In order to provide a mechanism for effective changes in society, training programs involving the residents of the Kyrgyz Republic are conducted on issues of human rights, citizenship, and conflict prevention and resolution. Furthermore, the Institute provides Kyrgyz citizens with broad access to information, especially on democracy, previously difficult to acquire in Central Asia. The Institute encourages citizens to participate in public life, enhance stability and develop civil society in the region. The Institute also seeks to maintain inter-ethnic and religious peace by conducting research and making recommendations to decision-makers.

The Institute's activities include:

- Program on Sustainable Development in Central Asia: The Institute organizes round table discussions, conferences and seminars on pertinent issues of regional development, such as inter-ethnic relation and the prevention of conflict. These meetings bring together academics, experts, policy-makers, community leaders and NGO representatives to discuss the regional situation from a variety of perspectives.

- Civic Education and Training Program: This program seeks to strengthen civil society and to influence positive changes in society. The program involved the training of community leaders, NGO activists, and secondary school teachers to support, cultivate and further develop citizens' democratic skills. Publications on these topics are a large part of this program as well.

- Civic Education and Human Rights: Each year, the Institute carries out 10-day winter schools for high school teachers, which have been conducted in partnership with the Kyrgyz Institute for Education since 1998.

- Gender Studies Unit: This part of the Institute works with issues of gender equality in society and conducts research and organizes seminars on various relevant topics

The Institute also maintains a rapidly expanding Resource Center with literature on democracy, conflict prevention and resolution, civic education, and political and social development in Central Asia.

Institute of Statehood and Democracy — Kyiv, Ukraine



The Institute of Statehood and Democracy, founded in the early 1990s as an initiative by the Popular Movement of Ukraine "Rukh," is a non-governmental, non-partisan research and educational institute, whose principal aims are:

- To advance the idea of Ukrainian statehood;
- To assist in the development of democratic values, the building of a law-based society, and the formulation of an independent national policy.

The Institute's main initiative has been to establish and run a program of study in politics and governance in Ukraine in order to promote the education and skills of Ukraine's political leaders. The Institute is also working to improve the results of democratic candidates and parties during elections in Ukraine.

The Institute regularly conducts seminars, conferences, and symposia and holds training courses for civic and political activists. These activists are chosen from all social strata from among those who have demonstrated a commitment to civic and political activism. The Institute engages all democratic activists and focuses its activity on Ukraine's eastern and southern regions.

The Institute of Statehood and Democracy also provides in-depth analysis of draft legislation and distributes analytical briefs to parliament members in order to encourage alternative legislation. The Institute currently provides legislative support to the largest democratic faction in Ukraine's parliament, "Nasha Ukraina" (Our Ukraine). The organization regularly publishes books and informational brochures and an electronic bulletin, "The Rukh Insider." The Institute is also responsible for translating and publishing the Ukrainian-language *Centers for Pluralism Newsletter*, which is geared towards Ukrainian NGOs, and for publishing the latest issue of the main English-language *Centers for Pluralism Newsletter* and the CfP Tenth Anniversary publication.

In addition, the Institute is working to form a coalition of civic organizations to support democratic change during the next elections due in 2004.

Lam — Grozny, Chechnya



Lam (meaning “mountain” in Chechen) was founded in 1996 to preserve Chechnya’s intellectual and cultural heritage and promote education and human values in society. Since 1999, it has worked to find a peaceful solution to the Russian war against Chechnya and to provide humanitarian assistance to refugees, including advising international relief organizations on how best to deliver humanitarian aid.

Before the current war, Lam focused on preserving Chechnya’s intellectual and cultural heritage. It produced and distributed recordings of musical, theatrical, and dance programs, published books on cultural topics, and organized regular meetings of intellectuals on cultural, legal and human rights topics.

Originally based in Grozny, Lam has had to organize many of its activities out of Nazran and out of the Sakharov Museum in Moscow since the second war began. Lam has disseminated information about the crisis and about Russian war crimes, carried out democratic education programs in schools and refugee camps, and organized conferences and seminars drawing together Chechens from across the political spectrum. Originally, Lam produced Dispatches from Chechnya (now prepared by a separate organization Latta). In its information dissemination efforts, Lam works closely with the Andrei Sakharov Museum in Moscow and IDEE.

Lam has also organized several major conferences bringing together Chechen and other representatives in forums to find a way out of the crisis and an end to the war. Lam’s representatives have also brought its message of the necessity for a democratic Chechnya to Europe and North America. In the spring of 2000 Lam became a Chechen Center for Pluralism and is currently a partner organization.

Lion Society — Lviv, Ukraine



The Lion Society was founded in 1987 and officially registered in 1989 — one of the first non-governmental organizations in Soviet Ukraine and among the oldest in independent Ukraine. During its first years, the main goal of the organization was the development of

Ukrainian independence through the promotion of youth activism in such areas as politics, culture, education, and ecology. In 1989, the Lion Society established the first independent newspaper in Ukraine — Postup (“Progress”). In the first democratic elections, two members of the Lion Society were elected to the Ukrainian Parliament and a number of other organization members were elected to local administrative posts.

The Lion Society’s mission is to support democratic initiatives in Ukraine and in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, and to preserve and promote the cultural-historical heritage of Ukraine as an important part of establishing a democratic independent Ukraine. To accomplish these goals, the organization engages in education, ecology, regional studies, publishing, and consultative activities. The Lion Society also currently maintains the West-Ukrainian Resource Center (WURC), which supports NGOs in the region.

One of the main activities of the Lion Society is its work with NGOs, educational institutions, and local administrations through seminars, training sessions, publication of instructional literature, and conducting ecological and culture-related activities. The Lion Society is part of several training networks in Ukraine and Central and Eastern Europe.

The “Dniester” campaign, which the Lion Society has organized since 1988, is a series of expeditions into various regions to Western Ukraine for the purpose of researching the state of well-known and lesser-known architectural and historical memorials, amassing collections of folkloric materials, recording local customs, ceremonies and medicinal practices of the peoples of the Dniester watershed. Research is also conducted on flora and fauna in the region. The findings of these expeditions are well reported in books and articles. This initiative is now a three-year joint German-Ukrainian project involving the monitoring of the Dniester for environmental damage.

The Lion Society’s current projects include “Support for Democratic Initiatives in Central and Eastern Europe,” which develops cooperation among NGOs and local governmental administrations; intensifying the work of NGOs and student self-government and con-

ducting research on the Third Sector; among other activities. The Lion Society is also pursuing research and programs for secondary students and adults on the topics of "Historiography and Regional Studies," along with an essay competition on the topic of Lviv and Ukrainian history. The Society's program, "Cultural Studies and Ecology," is carried out in connection with the annual "Dniester" campaign in Lviv and other districts, which emphasizes the interconnectedness of the natural and cultural world.

The Lion Society hosted the 17th Meeting of the Centers for Pluralism in Lviv in April 2002 and is IDEE's initiating and partner organization for the program "Tourism and Community Development in Ukraine," which is building local Citizen Tourism Committees in an effort to promote public-private partnerships to build communities through tourism based on cultural heritage, history, and the environment.

PRIMA – Moscow, Russia



The Moscow Human Rights News Agency PRIMA distributes news relating to human rights conditions in Russia, the former Soviet Union, and other parts of the world. The PRIMA Agency was founded in February 2000 as the successor to the Express-Chronicle human rights newspaper, which had been published in Moscow since 1987.

PRIMA receives information from its own network of correspondents throughout Russia, Belarus, and the other republics of the former Soviet Union as well as reports from different correspondents, cooperating organizations, and individuals on political events and human rights in Cuba, China, Vietnam, Myanmar, Laos, Iraq, Iran, Nigeria, among many others. Since 2000, PRIMA has published daily news reports with various items from different countries together with longer news reports and analyses on key events. PRIMA focuses on issues that are not in the general press: forced organ transplantation and mass executions of religious believers in China; the widespread repression of the highland Montagnards in Vietnam; the ongoing war against the Chechen people; and the ongoing political use of psychiatry around the world. PRIMA's reporting on the

dissident movement in Cuba has been cited by many observers as the best in the field.

Current news items (as well as an archives) can be found on PRIMA's Web site (www.prima-news.ru) or can be E-mailed on a subscription basis to mass media outlets both domestically and internationally.

Support Center for Democratic Elections — Baku, Azerbaijan



The Support Center for Democratic Elections (SCDE) is a non-profit, non-governmental organization established in 1997 by a group of political scientists, sociologists, lawyers, and election experts. The main goal of the Center is to promote free, fair, and democratic elections, and to ensure a system of democracy in Azerbaijan.

To accomplish these goals, the Center:

- studies and advocates the values and practices of democracy;
- promotes free and fair elections;
- analyzes the legislative system in Azerbaijan and makes proposals regarding reforms in the legal system, including legislative acts; and
- assists citizens to increase their level of activity in democratic processes.

SCDE is involved in organizing seminars on democracy and democratic institutions, produces publications, organizes election monitoring, and organizes and participates in round tables of political and NGO leaders.

In carrying out its activities, SCDE works with 12 political parties, but has affiliation with none of them and maintains a non-partisan stance. SCDE works extensively in cooperation with other international and domestic organizations. In the recent past, the organization has printed brochures on democratic institutions with Inam, held seminars on elections and local administration with the support of the Westminster Foundation for Democracy, participated in arranging and transmitting educational programs on elections on Space TV with the support of the U.S. Public Affairs Bureau, and carried out programs to mobilize voters with the assistance of IDEE, among other activities. For the current elections, SCDE is also working with the election coalition SOS '03.

Student Union of Serbia — Belgrade, Serbia



The Student Union of Serbia was founded in 1993 at the Economics Faculty of Belgrade University with the aim of promoting democratic values at the university, represent student interests, and opposing the anti-democratic regime of Slobodan Milosovic. Despite ongoing pressure and repression, SUS expanded to all five university centers and was at the center of the democratic protests of 1993, 1996-97, and 2000 and organized the Anti-War Campaign to oppose Milosevic's police and military brutalities in Kosovo leading up to the war. In the 2000 elections, SUS was an active participant of the Izlaz 2000 NGO campaign to mobilize voters for changes.

After succeeding in the struggle for basic democratic changes in Serbia, SUS changed its focus to overcome the damage to the university system during the Milosevic dictatorship and to struggle for a modern and open-minded university and society in general. With the collapse of the old regime's student and university structures, the SUS has emerged as the largest student organization -- and NGO --- in Serbia, representing nearly 20,000 members at nearly all faculties in Serbia.

The SUS's national campaign targets new members, new faculties and strengthens faculty structures. The Union raises awareness on important issues for the reform of Serbian universities such as the modernization of curricula, quality assurance, corruption, and student participation in the university community. SUS has initiated training workshops to educate freshman and younger students on how to expand the union and stimulate discussion of reform in the university.

The SUS is involved in all aspects of university reform, sitting on government and legislative committees, organizing major national conferences promoting European standards, and educating its members and students generally on important issues of university reform and how they can achieve change at their faculties.

The SUS is highly active in the European Union of National Student Unions and is represented in leading positions in the secretari-

at and executive committee. Working in cooperation with ESIB, as well as IDEE, SUS has begun training programs in Belarus for the Belarus Student Association and in Azerbaijan.

Tashkent Public Education Center — Tashkent, Uzbekistan



The Tashkent Public Education Center (TPEC) was formed in 1995 to promote civic education reform for Uzbekistan's educators and schools. The Center develops civic education curricula and teaching strategies, publishes civics materials, and conducts training sessions for educators.

Since 1995, more than 1,000 teachers, college students and NGO leaders from all over Central Asia have taken part in TPEC's training workshops. These workshops include training in both civic content as well as methodology, encouraging teachers to use participative educational methods that will foster student's independent thinking.

TPEC has published two textbooks for use in Uzbek schools: "The Constitution and Us," which presents the history of participatory democracy and explains the principles outlined in the current constitution of Uzbekistan; and "The ABCs of Citizenship," which describes the basic tenets of democracy. The Center also publishes a newsletter entitled "Public Dialogue," which is distributed to more than 500 readers. The newsletter features civics lesson plans and information about textbooks, conferences for teachers, and analyses of the problems facing the Third Sector.

TPEC has helped coordinate a number of training and education programs for counterparts throughout Central Asia. It also serves as a regional partner organization for IDEE's "Networking Women in Central Asia Program," which brought together more than 50 women NGO leaders from Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan as well as Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, for training and networking. Through this program, more than 12 cross-border projects were initiated.

In 2002, during a "Networking Women" study tour to the United States, TPEC's director, Muborak Tashpulotova, was among five women given the NED's Democracy Award for their efforts to promote democracy.

Viasna Human Rights Center – Minsk, Belarus



The Viasna Human Rights Center is a non-governmental organization that offers legal support to members of various political parties, NGOs, trade unions, youth organizations as well as their families, people under criminal prosecution for political reasons, families of missing political figures, low-income groups in the population, people who have suffered from the actions of police, and minors, students and others fired from employment without grounds.

Viasna has 17 local branches in Navapolatsk, Mahilow, Brest, Hrodna, Babruisk, Baranavichy, Barysaw, Viaroza, Vitebsk, Kastsiukovivichy, Lida, Kobryn, Mazyr, Maladetchna, Pinsk, Svetlahorsk, and Slutsk.

Informational Program: Viasna produces a biweekly bulletin entitled “Right to Freedom” in Belarusian, Russian and English and also contributes articles on human rights and democracy to other media sources such as *Nasha Svaboda*, *Narodnaya Vola*, and *Rabochy*. The Center’s Web site (www.spring96.org) provides human rights monitoring information. Viasna also compiles an annual *Chronicle Review of Human Rights Violations in Belarus*, which has been highly successful.

Educational Program: This program consists of lectures and seminars on human rights and is intended for varied audiences. Viasna has organized numerous lectures for

local human rights advocates, students, public activists, and teachers – many in cooperation with international organizations.

Public Reception Room: The Public Reception Room provides legal assistance by giving legal advice, participation of Viasna lawyers in trials, assisting with legal applications and appeals, and monitoring of criminal cases, trials and street actions.

Participation in Independent Observation: Viasna has organized several election monitoring programs and has mobilized large numbers of domestic and international observers for this cause. For the 2001 election, Viasna’s observers met with obstacles coming from the government’s authorities, but the monitors managed to gather information concerning violations during different stages of the election campaign. The observers then filed hundreds of complaints to central and regional election commissions, Prosecutor’s offices and courts concerning serious violations of the election code.

Public Actions and Campaigns: Viasna has organized rallies and demonstrations in Belarus for the purpose of championing human rights, protesting the disappearance of certain politicians, censorship and the government’s anti-Semitic acts.

Cooperation with other NGOs: Viasna is an active member of the Assembly of Democratic Non-governmental Organizations in Belarus, and also maintains close contact with international human rights organizations and provides information on the human rights situation in Belarus to the international community.