ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT
January 2006 – December 2006

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Executive Summary

OUR ENVIRONMENT IN 2006 …

Global and national crises that took place this year directly or indirectly raised key freedom of expression questions. The Danish Cartoon row, the publication of photos showing Abu Graib and Basra, the imprisonment of Holocaust denial David Irving, the row over Pope Benedict statement on Islam and violence, the record numbers of journalists arrested or killed, attacks on free speech led by religious or ethnic communities (Europe, Asia) or drug cartels (Latin America) all took place in a global context dominated by terrorism, security concerns and a corresponding wave of anti-terrorism legislation. The year was also characterised by the censorship of artistic expressions, in particular Rap music. Incidents included French rapper Richard Makela, Fifty Cents's movie poster, the denial of entry into the United States of Sri Lankan-born rapper MIA; and the Industry-led censorship of Aki Nawaz's album All is War.

The list is thus long of challenges posed in 2006 to the protection of freedom of expression globally – most of them “old,” pre-cold war censorship issues adopting the postures and tools of this early 21st century which has seen national and global conflicts increasingly played out along variables that have historically challenged or threatened freedom of expression, such as religion(s), national security, and national identity.

In 2006, civil and political rights and abuses have come back to the forefront of our concerns, including in countries where we thought the risks for high level of abuses were remote, and including on issues which human rights activists may had considered relatively “safe”, such as the use of torture or indeed this one civil right ARTICLE 19 is concerned with: freedom of expression. From this standpoint, the early 21st century and 2006 in particular may well have been a turning point for freedom of expression globally and historically.

WHAT WE AIMED TO ACHIEVE…

ARTICLE 19 2006 OBJECTIVES

1. Implement ARTICLE 19 2006 activities under our freedom of expression strategy, including:
   1.1. Promote adoption and implementation of progressive access to information globally;
   1.2. Safeguard pluralism and diversity of views threatened by terrorism and anti-terrorism legislations
   1.3. Protect freedom of expression threatened in post-conflict situations in Iraq and Sudan
   1.4. Support Public Service internet and Public Service Broadcasting, and Media diversity
   1.5. Defend the rights of women to access sexual and reproductive health information

2. Develop ARTICLE 19 work in the Middle East
WHAT WE DID …

ARTICLE 19 responses to Blasphemy, Hate Speech and Censorship:
ARTICLE 19 was one of the first human rights and media organisations to take a stand on the row over the so-called Danish cartoons at the end of January 2006, insisting that blasphemy and offensive statements did not constitute an appropriate and legitimate benchmark to curtail freedom of expression. We suggested that as long as the statements in question did not amount to incitement to hatred, censorship constitutes a disproportionate and illegal response. Our position was picked up by a large number of media outlets and policy makers in the OSCE and EU.

ARTICLE 19 took action against the repressive measures taken against various newspapers, and their Editors, in the Middle East and internationally in response to their decisions to reproduce cartoons satirising the Prophet Mohammed. ARTICLE 19 has called for a suspension of all legal proceedings against newspapers penalised for exercising their legitimate right to freedom of expression. We reiterated our request for governments to take all possible measures to ensure that the independent press is able to perform their functions as guaranteed under international law.

The row over the Danish cartoons story was followed shortly thereafter by the publication of more Abu Graib pictures, the imprisonment of David Irving, censorship of rap music or rap musicians. In all cases, ARTICLE 19 responded swiftly by issuing a public statement and agreeing to a large number of radio and TV interviews which allowed us to put forward our position to a larger audience.

In 2006, ARTICLE 19 monitored and responded to a rise in the use and abuse of defamation law globally, but especially in Southeast Asia, Russia, and the CIS.

ARTICLE 19 responses to Anti-Terrorist Legislations
ARTICLE 19 produced 15 legal analyses of anti-terrorist legislations across the world, for advocacy and campaigning by international and national actors. We addressed the OSCE Human Dimension Supplementary Meeting in July 2006 – key note address on the security agenda and freedom of expression to a large audience of diplomats. We issued a dozen of press releases and short statements highlighting the risks to freedom of expression posed by anti-terrorist legislation, and advocated on behalf of individuals threatened with censorship, law suits, and imprisonment. We joined our voice to an increasing number of organisations raising fears for the protection of civil liberties, including in Western democracies and took part in an independent documentary on civil liberties.

Supporting media diversity and the free flow of information
In 2006, ARTICLE 19 focused on the promotion of the provision of public interest content in the media globally, self-regulation, the development and implementation of appropriate codes of conduct, and support to Press Councils in Africa (with the African regulatory bodies), Senegal, and Eastern Europe (Albania and Kosovo).

Strengthening the role of the media in post-conflict situations
In 2006, we have worked in Liberia, Sudan, Iraq, Nepal and Sri Lanka. We have also closely monitored the situation in Georgia, including through two missions there. In Sudan, we drafted and submitted media-friendly draft laws to the minister of information of the Government of Southern Sudan, facilitated the Roundtable Meeting of the South Sudan Union of Journalists and the Association for Media Development in South Sudan (AMDISS), and addressed the Southern Sudanese President, Vice President and Cabinet of Ministers on the need to implement positive media and access to information laws. In Iraq, we produced two key documents in 2006, including a Review of the newly-endorsed Iraqi Constitution, and Iraq Media Policy, as part of a program of work with UNESCO. We participated to two International Missions in Nepal, – the first focused on the repression of freedom of expression during the period of direct rule by the King and the last mission focused on developing and advocating for a programme for media law reform as democracy is being renewed in Nepal.

ARTICLE 19 responses to poverty
Development and anti-poverty remained one of the central issues addressed by ARTICLE 19 in 2006 – an approach and focus the organisation initiated in the early 1990s. In 2006, our programme of work on the intersection between freedom of expression and economic and social rights increased some threefold. Projects initiated in 2006 include:

- Mexico: Youth and access to information on Sexual and Reproductive Rights
- Communities’ access to relevant environmental information in Ukraine
- Women’s access to information in the break away republic of Abkhazia
- Freedom of Information and Poverty in Brazil

ARTICLE19 with IBIS (Danish NGO) also facilitated meetings of people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) in Namibia and Mozambique focusing on individual and group access to HIV/AIDS information in the two countries, and in Ghana, on the relationship between Canadian mining industries, local communities, and the state.

New programme of work in the Middle East
In 2006, ARTICLE 19 developed its work on the Middle East through a focus on project development, partnership building and advocacy and campaigning work for media and FoE reform. In this first year of its existence, the programme focused its activities on Iraq, Yemen, (Sana’a Conference on Democracy, Political Reforms and Freedom of Expression) and Iran. We monitored and responded to abuses of freedom of expression, including in Lebanon and Jordan. We launched a new interactive campaign to fight internet censorship in Iran entitled the Persian Impediment. We organised two public events in London.

SAMPLE OF OUR IMPACT …

- Africa – Regulators Training: After conducting the pilot training course for regulators we have received confirmation from the Chairperson of the African Communication Regulation Authorities Network that they consider the training beneficial to broadcasting regulators and that they wish to cooperate in extending the training to regulators in French and Portuguese speaking countries.
- Julieta Langa the Chairperson of the African Communication Regulation Authorities Network (ACRAN) wrote: “Let me congratulate you and your team for the successful completion of the curriculum and manual of broadcasting for regulators, as well as for the success of the pilot training held in Kampala, Uganda. As part of the group that attended the pilot training I have got a lot of benefit from the exchange and I expect that
ARTICLE 19 and ACRAN will cooperate to extend the training to regulators from both French and Portuguese speaking countries and institutions.”

- **Cambodia:** The Cambodian Prime Minister announced that Cambodia would not reject the current draft of the Penal Code, and would decriminalise defamation – following a campaign by A19 and its local partners.

- **Our analysis of the Fiji Broadcasting Law was widely reported in the local press and is now being discussed by the Fijian government.**

- **The Hong Kong LegCo commission agreed with ARTICLE 19’s concerns over public service broadcasting in Hong Kong and will write formal report on this subject. ARTICLE 19’s report has frequently been referred to within the Hong Kong media.**

- **Lebanon:** Dropping of charges against Lebanese human rights lawyer – we successfully lobbied the Lebanese authorities for the dropping of criminal defamation charges against a high profile human rights lawyer, Dr Mohammed Mugraghby.

- **On January 25th, five years of joint campaigning by ARTICLE 19 and our partners in Macedonia bore fruit when the parliament adopted a progressive freedom of information act. The final version included several crucial last-minute improvements suggested by ARTICLE 19, such as protection for whistleblowers and the establishment of a dedicated freedom of information commission.**

- **Mexico:** The Ministry of Health has now uploaded onto their website their quarterly reports on Reproductive Health and Gender Equality due to the number of information requests generated by our working group. The Ministry of Health’s information office also told us that our information requests forced them to have various meetings in order to decide how to best respond and how to actively publish and generate the information as was solicited (i.e. in a more “accessible” manner).

- **The Mongolian FOI proposal is being redrafted, following our comments.**

- **Maldives:** Shortly after the International Mission to the Maldives in May, the government acted on a number of recommendations we had made, including the release of political dissidents, prisoners of conscience, changes to draft laws, etc.

- **ARTICLE 19 successfully campaigned for improvements to the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) Information Disclosure Policy, including appeal rights for stakeholders outside the EU. The policy was adopted in May. A number of civil society organisations have already endorsed the GTI Transparency Charter.**

- **Yemen:** The Final Communiqué of the Sana’a Conference on Democracy, Political Reforms and Freedom of Expression contains unusually strong recommendations on freedom of expression, included as a result of ARTICLE 19’s lobbying.

**OUR MAIN OUTPUTS…**
In 2006, we ran projects or undertook in-depth legal work and legal assistance in 34 countries. We undertook 6 regional projects, including in South Caucasus, the CIS, South East Asia, Latin America and Africa.

At present, we work with 88 domestic implementing partners, active in areas such as human rights, freedom of information, the media, women, health and the environment. This is 20 more groups than in 2005, mostly through our work in Latin America and the Middle East. We have 12 international partners, work closely with 5 regional and international instruments, and are member to 12 coalitions. In addition, the implementation of our projects involves around 100 grass-roots organisations who participate to our training sessions, workshops, strategy meetings and evaluations.

We produced 56 legal analysis of Freedom of Information (FoI) and Media legislations, provided an amicus curiae brief before the Inter-American Commission, and lodged cases at the UN Human Rights Committee and the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights

We undertook four main litigation activities, including in national courts: Reyes and Others v. Chile (The Inter-American Court of Human Rights); Lithuanian Libel Case¹; Latvian Hate Speech Case; Supinya Klangnarong v. Shin Corp. We also provided input into, and signed onto, another case on access to information before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, González v. Chile, which is still being decided. We also still had two cases from Uzbekistan pending before the UN Human Rights Committee, as well as two cases from Zimbabwe before the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights; these have all been funded through specific project grants.

We now have observer status with four official Council of Europe groups: the Committee on Access to Official Information (DH-S-AC), the Steering Committee on the Media and New Communication Services (CDMC), the Group of specialists on freedom of expression and information in times of crisis (MC-S-IC) and the Group of specialists on public service broadcasting in the Information Society (MC-S-PSB). These groups prepare official recommendations for adoption by the Committee of Ministers and, in the case of DH-S-AC, a legally binding treaty, and their work is of paramount standard-setting importance in Europe as well as in the wider world.

We produced around 50 policy and advocacy publications and statements, on such issues as: defamation, Indicators on freedom of expression, sexual and reproductive health, development, antiterrorism, etc.

We have produced a Transparency Charter for International Financial Institutions, setting out the standards and norms that should govern IFI disclosure policy, and the principles that should guide its practice. The Charter was formally launched in the autumn as the standard by which IFI transparency standards will be judged, and it is now the subject of a broad endorsement campaign.

¹ In that case, a psychiatric hospital used Lithuania’s broad libel laws to try to silence a critical NGO report on the quality of psychiatric care. The case was dropped immediately after we filed our brief with the local courts.
We conducted a number of capacity-building activities and trainings on freedom of expression and information to approximately 400 NGOs, media and government representatives globally.
OUR ENVIRONMENT IN 2006 …

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CORE AND THEMATIC PRIORITIES

1. Creating a legal and policy enabling environment

The implementation of ARTICLE 19 strategic objectives relies on an enabling legal and policy environment in which freedom of expression, access to information and an independent media are respected and can thrive.

In 2006, working with our partners and relevant coalitions ARTICLE 19 has provided about 40 expert legal analyses of national laws (as of September 2006 – see Annex two) affecting freedom of expression, including freedom of information. These analyses have covered all regions of the world, and have been developed either pro-actively or in response to requests from partners, other NGOs, media associations or governments. We have also lobbied governments and/or local authorities to discuss draft legislation and policies and advocate for change, through direct meetings, statements, etc.

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<th>ARTICLE 19 2006 legal analyses</th>
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<td>In 2006, ARTICLE 19 produced 56 substantive memoranda, statements and detailed letters analysing and commenting on laws and broader legislative developments, ranging from short statements on particular proposals to in-depth interventions, commentary and analysis of complex laws. All our output was produced at the request of one of our regional programmes, our partner organisations, IGOs or local groups who are aware of our expertise. Over the years, we have found that the combination of our unique legal expertise and the advocacy efforts of our regional programmes and partner organisations leads to strong results. The range of responses to our comments was wide: in Fiji, the government is reconsidering a proposed new broadcasting bill following critical comments by ARTICLE 19 and other NGOs; in Hong Kong, a parliamentary committee shared our concerns about the government’s plans to strip down public service broadcasting and started an inquiry; the Australian Law Commission shared many of the concerns we expressed regarding the use of sedition law in Australia and made recommendations for reform; and the UN Special Rapporteur raised our concerns regarding religious libel with the government of the Maldives during an official visit. Our analyses also received broad press coverage. For example, the Irish Times and the Guardian reported our concerns with proposed defamation and privacy laws in Ireland and the South China Morning Post featured our comments on public service broadcasting in Hong Kong.</td>
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<td>Freedom of information, defamation and government attempts to regulate the media continued to feature as key issues in 2006 – as they have for some years. We also saw new terrorism laws and proposals in several countries, which proposed to extend the coverage of such laws to an ever-wider range of groups and activity, including forms of protest that ought to be covered under ‘ordinary’ public order laws (terrorism laws trigger a very restrictive governmental response that can, in our view, be justified only in extreme situations).</td>
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<td>In 2006, we expanded our work with NGOs to produce independent proposals for law reform. For example, we assisted partners in Moldova in the drafting of a transparency law and a freedom of expression law; and we worked with consortia of NGOs in Southern Sudan and Liberia to draft proposals for broadcasting laws.</td>
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ARTICLE 19 strengthened the capacity of a variety of stakeholders, including NGOs, media outlets, national and decentralised government officials, on laws and policies, their implementation, and on regional and international instruments. For instance, we have organised and led capacity building projects on freedom of expression, including freedom of information, with civil society, lawyers and public servants in the following countries: Malaysia, Abkhazia, Kazakhstan, Georgia, Karabakh, Armenia, Russia, Tajikistan, Macedonia, Argentina, Yemen, Qatar (Al Jazeera Training Centre), etc.

**Capacity-Building on Freedom of Information in Argentina**

Since April 2006, ARTICLE 19 and the Asociación por los Derechos Civiles (ADC) have organised a series of information and training sessions on access to information held by public bodies. These sessions have reached a great variety of social sectors, from an association of rural producers in the province of Córdoba to NGOs working on different discrimination issues, and including university students and public officials. A user-friendly guide to the Access to Information Law of the City of Buenos Aires has also been published. It describes in simple language the procedure to follow for the correct use of the law. Both the trainings and the guide are part of ARTICLE 19 continuous an integrated effort across the region to raise awareness of the right to access to information and to expand the knowledge and use of the existing legal avenues to obtain information.

We lobbied at the level of Inter-Government Organisations, in the first place the African Union, OSCE, OAS, and European Union.

**ARTICLE 19 at the African Union**

ARTICLE 19 coordinated an African media support and FOE organizations’ forum on freedom of expression. The meeting, planned as an aside to the AU Summit in Gambia, took place in Senegal because the Gambia government refused to grant permission. The Objectives of the Forum included: (i) Critical review of obstacles to freedom of expression in Africa and (ii) Crafted recommendations to the AU leadership. Follow up include advocacy visits to AU chair and officials through the South African Foreign Ministry. ARTICLE 19 also facilitated the francophone’s consultation for west and central Africa organized by the Economic Commission for Africa and Panos Institute for West Africa.

**2. Promoting accountability among international actors**

We extended the call for, and practices of, transparency to non-state actors, in the first place International Financial Institutions (IFIs). Despite their massive influence on sustainable development, the IFIs remain highly secretive and unaccountable. Project information is often available only after all major decisions on a project have been made, marginalizing the voice of affected communities. In 2006, we led on, and launched an IFI Transparency Charter, intended to articulate civil society’s demands for openness at these institutions.

**ARTICLE 19 and the Global Transparency Initiative**
ARTICLE 19 has been a founding and active member of the Global Transparency Initiative (GTI) since it was first conceptualised at a meeting in Georgia, USA, in February 2003. This unique project brings together eight NGOs from two communities – those which focus on access to information issues, including ARTICLE 19, and those which work on international financial institutions (IFIs) – in a structured cooperation. ARTICLE 19 has been tasked with developing the Transparency Charter, the “flagship statement of the standards to which [GTI members] believe IFI access to information policies should conform”. The Charter consists of nine key principles, each accompanied by detailed commentary. The various principles deal with access to information as a human right, the obligation of automatic or routine disclosure, access to decision-making, the right to request information, limited exceptions, appeals, whistleblower protection, promotional measures and the need for regular review. The Charter was launched during the IMF/World Bank Group Annual meetings in Singapore from 14-20 September 2006. The launch received high level media interest and coverage, including in the UK.

3. Campaigning Globally against Criminal Defamation

Unduly harsh, outdated defamation laws, and the abuse of such laws, has long been identified by NGOs working on freedom of the media, as well as by international and regional mechanisms (such as the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Opinion and Expression, and the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media) as a major obstacle to a free and independent media. All too often, defamation laws are abused by politicians, public officials, powerful businesspeople and other public figures to stifle legitimate criticism of their activities, contrary to the right to freedom of expression and the public interest.

In 2006, ARTICLE 19 monitored and responded to a rise in the use and abuse of defamation law globally, but especially in Southeast Asia, Russia, and the CIS (See Annex two for reports).

- We have produced legal analyses of criminal defamation laws (see above section)
- We have taken actions to defend individuals threatened by imprisonment and/or heavy fines, including by drafting amicus brief such as in Lithuania or Thailand, and issuing press releases and letters to the authorities.
- We have produced a draft defamation ‘ABC’ that includes an overview of the features of a good defamation law and we are planning to develop a global mapping of criminal defamation for campaigning purposes by the end of the year.

Examples of ARTICLE 19 actions against defamation

In Cambodia, Prime Minister Hun Sen ordered the detention of and filed defamation charges against Mam Sonando, a prominent broadcaster, and a number of leading human rights activists, including Yeng Virak, the executive director of our partner organisation, the Cambodian Legal Education Community. Following condemnations and protests from ARTICLE 19 and various other actors, the detainees were released, and eventually the charges were also dropped.

In Indonesia, the saga of defamation cases involving businessman Tomy Winata and the Tempo press group continues. In January 2006, the Jakarta High Court upheld the lower court’s decision that Goenawan Mohammad — a prominent journalist, founder of Tempo and member of ARTICLE 19’s international board — pay non-material damages of over USD 100,000, publicise apologies in two national dailies and pay a fine of over USD 1,000 for each day of delay in publishing the apology. ARTICLE 19 called on the Indonesian government and judiciary to
overturn the judgment against Goenawan and *Tempo Daily*, and to reform the defamation law to bring it into line with international and constitutional guarantees of freedom of expression. In February, the Indonesian Supreme Court overturned the criminal libel conviction of Bambang Harymurti, the chief editor of *Tempo* magazine. ARTICLE 19 continues to campaign for a similar outcome for the other outstanding cases against *Tempo* and its journalists and publishers.

4. Campaigning against illegitimate hate speech and anti-terrorist legislations

**Anti-terrorist legislations:**
Since 9/11, a range of countries around the world have legislated to toughen up their anti-terror regimes. In 2006, A19 undertook a global monitoring of these laws and we have issued expert statements on a large number of anti-terror legislation and sedition laws throughout the year, including on **Australia, United Kingdom, Turkey, Russia, Jordan, Maldives, Nepal, Latvia, Bahrain** etc. In the cases reviewed by ARTICLE 19, anti-terrorist legislations fail to strike an appropriate balance between national security and freedom of expression. The **United Kingdom, Spain** and **Denmark**, have criminalised the ‘justification’ or glorification of terrorism, in some form or other. Less democratic regimes, including **China, Ethiopia** and **Nepal**, have used anti-terror laws to clamp down on peaceful protestors and political dissidents, while in **Nigeria**, two journalists have recently been arrested on charges of sedition for publicly criticising the government. ARTICLE 19 gave evidence to the **ICJ panel of eminent jurists** on terrorism and human rights. We issued a number of press releases and opinion pieces that were published in the **Guardian on line**; gave interviews to various journalists on the issue, including to print (**the Spectator**), Radio and Television.

**Hate Speech and Blasphemy:**
We have issued press statements on the very contentious and sensitive issues of hate speech and blasphemy arising from the Danish cartoons and the censorship of rap music. We have participated to conferences and drafted in-depth policy and analytical pieces, including one published in **Equal Voices** – the magazine of the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia. We have sought to build bridges with colleagues from the anti-racist civil society as well as colleagues working on freedom of religion. The Executive Director was invited by the FCO to address their freedom of religion panel, composed of representatives of a dozen or so religious organisations and faith-based groups. In general, our comments and approaches have been very well received and it appears that we have influenced thinking on the issue, especially within the EU, CoE and OSCE.

**Monitoring and Advocacy:**
ARTICLE 19 extended its monitoring and responses work on behalf of media diversity globally. In 2006, this became a common feature of our work in 4 regions and the objective is to increase it to the remaining regions by 2007. This work has proven to have far greater impact than originally anticipated. It included media monitoring in pre-election contexts, data-gathering and advocacy missions, reactions to individual journalist cases, etc.

**Examples of Monitoring and Advocacy Work**
In 2006, we undertook media monitoring in **Angola, Zambia, Democratic Republic of Congo** and the **Gambia** – and issued Briefing Notes and press releases developed and circulated to
strengthen the role of the Media in pre-election periods and ensure it can fulfil its functions. They were picked up by international agencies and we received very positive feedback from partners on the ground.

In May 2006, ARTICLE 19 participated in a fact-finding mission to the Maldives, together with four other organisations (International Media Support, Reporter without Borders, the International Federation of Journalists and the South Asia Press Commission). The mission observed an improvement in freedom of expression and the growth of independent media. Nevertheless, the group was concerned with patterns of attacks and harassment against independent and opposition media, and with proposed draft Bills which fail to meet international standards on freedom of expression.

We participated in two International Missions in Nepal, – the first focused on the repression of freedom of expression during the period of direct rule by the King and the last mission focused on developing and advocating for a programme for media law reform as democracy is being renewed in Nepal. Both missions were extremely successful – the first in terms of showing our solidarity with the media sector (at the forefront of the opposition to the King coup) and strengthening the democratic voices; the second in terms of ensuring that the new Constitution and draft laws reflect international standards and best practices. The second mission has already led to a small programme of cooperation funded by UNESCO and a larger programme of cooperation is expected to follow.

**Strategic Litigation:**

In 2006, ARTICLE 19 worked on a number of Strategic Litigation cases:

- We have presented a case to the UN Human Rights Commission on the threats to NGOs registration in Uzbekistan;
- We have submitted detailed legal arguments on behalf of Eritrean journalists and politicians detained since 200;
- We prepared a case against Zimbabwe relating to broadcasting law that was deemed receivable by the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights; we are now preparing affidavits and finalising admissibility brief
- We have assisted in follow-up to Sri Lanka case on contempt of court before the UN Human Rights Committee
- We have contributed to the Gonzalez brief on access to environmental information before Inter-American Commission on Human Rights

**5. Supporting media diversity and the free flow of information**

In 2006, ARTICLE 19 focused on the promotion of the provision of public interest content in the media globally, self-regulation, the development and implementation of appropriate codes of conduct, and support to Press Councils. Our work focused on Africa, Sudan, Eastern Europe, etc.

**Building capacity in Africa towards media diversity**

**African Regulatory Bodies:** In 2004 ARTICLE 19 called together an advisory group, consisting of academics from various African countries and the UK who work on broadcasting policy issues, to discuss the development of a curriculum to heighten African regulatory bodies’ awareness of
policy and regulation needed to promote diverse and pluralistic broadcasting landscape. As of yet, no institution in Africa offers thorough training on issues relating to broadcasting regulation, diversity and pluralism. The advisory group elaborated the outline for a curriculum that would address issues such as the general principles of broadcasting regulation, structure of regulatory bodies, licensing, regulation of content (local content, hate speech) and complaints/sanctions mechanisms. The “Broadcasting Diversity and Pluralism” curriculum was drafted by ARTICLE 19 in 2005 in collaboration with the advisory group. From January 23rd to 27th 2006, ARTICLE 19 held a pilot course in Kampala, Uganda, to assess its newly drafted curriculum. Participants included staff of media regulatory authorities from Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Ghana, Malawi and Mozambique. The course was co-facilitated by Professor Tawana Kupe from Wits University in South Africa and Adolf Mbaine from Makerere University in Uganda.

**Senegal**: ARTICLE 19 in partnership with CESTI, ISSIC and the Doctorate School of Political Science of the University Cheich Anta Diop in Dakar organised a Colloquium on the application of international freedom of expression standards in Senegal. The Colloquium brought together key media practitioners, academics and leaders of media regulatory bodies to discuss the practical implementation of international standards on freedom of expression. ARTICLE 19 will, in the coming months, work closely with the academic and regulatory institutions to increase their research and analytical capacity on key freedom of expression issues and will also work with local partners to strengthen freedom of expression during the up-coming presidential elections in February 2007.

In 2006, we initiated a new programme of work in **Albania** and **Kosovo** on media self-regulation to enable local initiatives for self-regulation to gain credibility and build up broader support across the media sector, within the public, and the government and inform a wider audience about lessons learned in media self-regulation in transitional democracies. We have organised trainings, seminars and/or regional meetings on media self-regulation with Albanian and Kosovan press council members and media professionals. We are planning next a 5-days study visit of representatives of the new Albanian and Kosovar press councils (2 members each) and A19 to the Estonian press council. We have also developed a new project proposal for the **Armenian** press council members, which would include a week-long study tour in the United Kingdom with British regulatory bodies and ARTICLE 19.

We are about to embark in a new programme of work in **Yemen**, in cooperation with local partners the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate (YJS); and the Yemen Female Media Forum (YFMF). Altogether, we will facilitate the establishment of a tripartite Media Law Working Group (MLWG) through a series of meetings and parallel workshops to review existing freedom of expression and media-related legislation, identify areas for reform, and develop draft reform legislation.

### 6. Strengthening the role of the media in post-conflict situations

ARTICLE 19 objectives are to develop civil society policy platforms for freedom of expression, media legislation and media practices supportive of peace and democratisation processes. In 2006, we have worked in **Liberia**, **Sudan**, **Iraq**, **Nepal** and **Sri Lanka**. We have also closely monitored the situation in **Georgia**, including through two missions there.

**Liberia**: ARTICLE19 with other members of the International Partnership for Media and Conflict in West Africa held an advocacy meeting with the Speaker of the Liberian House of Representatives and the Chairman on Information and Broadcasting to discuss media law and
policy reform. Meeting resulted in general support for the reform of the Liberia media laws and an agreement that policies should conform to international standards and best practice. We also issued a call to all stakeholders especially the Ministry of Information to expedite transformation of Liberian Broadcasting System (LBS) into a State broadcasting entity, independent from government and all political and economic forces. ARTICLE19 with UNESCO, IMS and the national working group on media law reform also arranged a two-part consultation with the media, civil society, relevant government officials and lawyers resulting in two draft bills (an access to information document and an independent broadcasting regulation)

**Sudan:** Our main objective in Sudan is to contribute to a climate of free expression including a free and independent media and dynamic civil society, thus encouraging the emergence of democracy and social development that meets the needs of all citizens. Some of the more specific objectives include enabling the Sudanese media to provide quality information to the populations on the post conflict situation, including through the establishment of Professional associations (Publishers, editors, journalists and women media workers), the adoption of Code of conduct, adopted by media professionals, the establishment of a self regulatory mechanism and the adoption of Media friendly laws by the Assembly of Southern Sudan. In 2006, many steps were taken towards the realisation of these goals! We drafted and submitted media-friendly draft laws to the minister of information of the Government of Southern Sudan, and the parliament has so far, reacted very positively to our input. ARTICLE 19 facilitated the Roundtable Meeting of the South Sudan Union of Journalists and the Association for Media Development in South Sudan (AMDISS). We provided advice on setting-up a Task Force responsible for drafting the Code of Ethics. We addressed the Southern Sudanese President, Vice President and Cabinet of Ministers on the need to implement positive media and access to information laws.

**Iraq:** We produced two key documents in 2006, including a Review of the newly-endorsed Iraqi Constitution, and Iraq Media Policy. We worked over the first 6 months of the year on developing a new programme of work in partnership with UNESCO, UNDP, MDI and local partners focusing on ‘supporting the development of an independent, pluralistic and professional media in Iraq’. A preliminary grant of US$140,000 has been allocated for the project.

7. **Strengthening poorest communities’ access to information**

ARTICLE 19 has developed an “empowerment through Information” methodology which we seek to apply to circumstances where vulnerable groups and communities are excluded from information flows, whether as users or providers of information.

Examples of our work in 2006 include:

**Women’s access to reproductive health information in Peru:** From September 2005 to April 2006, ARTICLE 19, the Centro de La Mujer Peruana Flora Tristán and the Instituto Prensa Y Sociedad (IPYS) organised sixteen workshops with civil society organisations and public officials working on sexual and reproductive health rights in four different regions of the country: Cusco, Lima, Piura and San Martin. The workshops brought together more than one hundred NGO representatives and grassroots activists working on issues related to health rights, including of women, people living with HIV/AIDS, the young, the poor and other vulnerable groups. More than 80 public officials working at different levels in State Health institutions participated in specific workshops aimed at increasing their knowledge of the existing Access to Information legislation and their duties under it. Joint sessions allowed civil society and State representatives

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to learn more about each other’s limitations, needs, expectations and frustrations at the moment of exercising the public’s right to know.

**Youth and access to information in Mexico:** One project there is considering access to information and health from the point of view of young people: what are their information needs and what challenges do they face in accessing information about sexual and reproductive health. ARTICLE 19 is also asking the Mexican government to generate, systematise and release good quality information in the field of reproductive and sexual health policy making, implementation and public spending. ARTICLE 19 has carried out a monitoring exercise on youth access to sexual and reproductive health information. Together with four local partners working for better sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services in Mexico (GIRE, Equidad de Género, Modemmuñer, and Fundar), we have issued dozens of information requests to public institutions responsible for implementing health policies that affect young people. These requests were informed by our discussions with two focus groups of students and young health activists, set up in order to better identify SRH information most relevant to young people. Our final findings will be available later this autumn, but preliminary results indicate important gaps in how the government’s health institutions impart information in the area of sexual and reproductive health of young people.

**Communities’ access to relevant environmental information in Ukraine:** A joint statement by ARTICLE 19 and the Ukrainian environmental NGO EcoPravo on the 20th Anniversary of Chernobyl marked the launch of our project on strengthening access to environmental information. As part of the project, an Hotline has been set up, which people can ring if they have any problems with accessing information that impact on their environment and health or if they have some allegations to bring to our attention. A complementary programme has been launched by the FOI Coalition and MENG0 which aims at raising awareness on RTI to MENG0 members and help them to use principles of access to information on their works (four capacity building trainings and a set of leaflets are planned within this project)

**Women’s access to information in the break away republic of Abkhazia:** ARTICLE 19 will promote the development of consultative and responsive people-centred (in particular where it concerns the interests of women) policy-making and decision-making in Sukhum, Gudauta and Tkuarchal districts of Abkhazia. Our work will also address Abkhaz society's need for greater transparency and credibility of public institutions, promoting good municipal governance and offering knowledge of mechanisms about how it may be achieved. The project begun 4 months ago and since then, the Heads of district administrations have publicly declared their willingness to collaborate. The De facto President of Abkhazia declared that he supports the aims of the project and agreed to appoint one of his advisers as a member to the legal drafting group. An Abkhaz legal drafting group has been set up and is making progress

8. Developing ARTICLE 19 Middle East Work

In 2006, ARTICLE 19 developed its work on the Middle East through a focus on project development, partnership building and advocacy and campaigning work for media and FoE reform.

Main activities:
(i) **Iraq:** Training of Trainers workshop on ‘Freedom of expression, human rights and the media in Iraq’ in December 2005 in Cairo, followed by the production and launch of the TOT manual on this topic, in April 2006;

(ii) **Yemen:** ARTICLE 19 took a lead role in assisting the Yemeni authorities and NGOs in organizing a High-Level Regional Conference on Human Rights, - Sana’a Conference on Democracy, Political Reforms and Freedom of Expression - which included a focus on freedom of expression. ARTICLE 19 was instrumental in developing an appropriate agenda and took the lead on some of the session. The Final Communique of the Sana’a Conference contains unusually strong recommendations on freedom of expression, included as a result of ARTICLE 19’s lobbying.

(iii) **Lebanon:** Observation of the trial of Dr. Mohammad Mughraby in Beirut in May. The charges were dropped by the military court two days prior to the trial, but ARTICLE 19 was able to participate to a press conference and peaceful demonstration for ‘FOE and human rights in Lebanon’. Our participation had been preceded by advocacy activities on behalf of Dr. Mughraby and lobbying of the authorities for his prompt release.

(iv) **Jordan:** ARTICLE 19 continued to campaign for media law reform in the country as well as for a FoI law.

(v) **Iran:** ARTICLE 19 monitored abuses of freedom of expression in Iran very closely and issued a large report on censorship of the art in Iran. In April 2006, ARTICLE 19 attended a conference for Iranian journalists, press freedom advocates and human rights lawyers in Istanbul, Turkey. We prepared a detailed legal analysis on the Iranian press law and made a presentation on the prospects for improving press freedom in Iran in the context of the Press Law. In December, we launched a new interactive campaign to fight internet censorship in Iran entitled the Persian Impediment, which received wide coverage and interest².

(vi) **Attacks on the Media:** ARTICLE 19 took a strong position against the measures taken against various newspapers and their editors in the region in response to their decisions to reproduce cartoons satirizing the prophet Mohammed. We wrote to the authorities requesting the suspension of all legal proceedings, including the release of those imprisoned.

(vii) **Palestine:** In December 2005, ARTICLE 19 and UNESCO undertook a mission to Palestine to work with a local team of legal experts on the drafting of new media legislation for the Palestinian National Authority. The President and then Minister of Information had both given firm commitments to drafting four new and progressive laws in the areas of broadcast regulation, press, the public broadcasting and the national news agency. It would seem that, at the time, the Palestinian authorities were genuine in their commitment to progressive legal reform, calling for a truly independent public broadcaster and broadcast regulator, as well as a major overhaul of the currently quite repressive press law. Hamas’ election in January 2006 means that we will have to wait to see if this commitment to reform remains as firm but we certainly hope it does. If so, this could represent one of the most promising developments in the Middle East in terms of progressive media legislation.

Public events:
ARTICLE 19 MENA program organised two public events this year: **Voices of Iraq** and **Voices of Iran** – both events sought to bring together different voices – the poet, the novelist, the

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² See: www.persianimpediment.org
musician, the journalist, the activist – whose combination allows the audience to better understand the situation in a country – including the rich artistic contribution the country has made or could make – although censorship hampers its true development.

**Development Work:**
Significant programme development work was undertaken in 2006, including:

- **Iraq:** 2006-2007 programme of work in partnership with UNDP, MDI and local partners focused on ‘supporting the development of an independent, pluralistic and professional media in Iraq’
- **Yemen:** Project focusing on ‘FOE and vulnerable groups’ in partnership with MDI, the YJS, YFMF
- **Palestine:** Project focusing on ‘FOE and women’ in Palestine in partnership with MDI and AMIN
- **Egypt:** A project ‘Promoting Arab/Danish cross cultural understanding through dialogue on freedom of expression’ has been developed in partnership with the CIHRS

9. Strengthening the work of the Open Word Centre and Network

In 2005, ARTICLE 19, English Pen and Index on Censorship moved in the same building on Amwell street with the view of strengthening our common work and collective voice on freedom of expression issues, and further exploring the establishment of an Open Word Center in London. By the end of 2005, we had moved towards extending the Consortium to 9 members, including 3 freedom of expression and 6 literacy organisations.

In 2006, a number of crucial steps were taken that has brought us closer to the realisation of our objective:

- The Arts Council granted the Nine-Member Consortium £75,000 for the purpose of further consultation on the development of the Open Word Centre. Virginia Barry was confirmed to the post of project manager, and Ursula Owen, executive director of Index on Censorship, to the post of project director.

- In October 2006, the Consortium refined the vision and mission of the project and agreed on a preliminary basis to the following vision statement: a dynamic arena to promote the power of the written and spoken word for creative and free expression.

- We also considered two potential locations for the Open Word Centre: the South Bank and the Guardian Newsroom. The former could not host all nine organisations although we could consider organising events there. The latter is currently on sale as the Guardian is moving to new offices at the end of 2007. Following meetings with the Project Director, One donor has expressed an interest in purchasing the building which could then house the nine member consortium for a maximum period of 12 years. The discussions regarding the purchase are on-going.

In addition, Index, English Pen and ARTICLE 19 organised a number of joint activities in 2006, including:
Joint Meeting with a group of Danish Journalists to discuss the row over the so-called Danish cartoons
Conference in Budapest on hate speech
Conference in Turkey on Iran
Freedom of Expression Panel – FCO initiative
Conference on racism and Freedom of Expression
Contribution to PEN Global Campaign against Defamation
Joint statement on the murder of Russian journalist Maria Politkovskava
Joint Statement on death threats against journalists in the UK
Collective contribution to the Human Rights house network
Joint mission and statement on Tunisia

10. Strengthening ARTICLE 19 Impact through higher profile and better targeted communication

1 – Media Work

A renewed media interest in FoE issue allowed ARTICLE 19 to strengthen its public profile and communication of its key messages. As the list below indicates, we managed to respond well and in a timely fashion to global issues and crisis, thus multiplying our media coverage considerably.

Prints Media

- February: Guardian On Line first page - During the same week, we were interviewed by BBC On Line for a piece on Hate Speech and we were asked by the Guardian On line to produce a small piece on the Danish cartoons fairly early on in the saga. The BBC articles and our Guardian pieces were then picked up by a number of other media and journalists globally, allowing us to be quoted quite largely and to multiply the number of interviews.

- Largely quoted in a BBC On Line article on hate speech
- Danish Christian Weekly (on right to practice religion and FoE)
- VNUnet.com (three times, on Microsoft’s censorship of Chinese blogs)
- Largely quoted in Christian Science Monitor article, on hate speech
- Quote in USA Today on hate speech
- Quote in ABC news on hate speech
- A19 letter to the Technical Working Group on Cambodian Penal Code published in Cambodian media
- Piece for World Press Freedom Day in This Week In Palestine looking at overview of media regulation
- Email interview with Croatian journalist re. secrecy law
- Phone interview with Danish journalist regarding threats to FOE in Britain
- Quoted in Canadian newspapers for comments on Albertan FOI amendments
- Quote in the Telegraph (article by Boris Johnson on anti-terrorist legislations):
  - The Guardian On Line – Comments are free – June 2006 – on a rap musician victim of censorship
- Large number of articles in Nepal Print Media throughout the week of the international Mission
- The Guardian – Letters – Joint Letter with Kate Allen (Amnesty International UK) on the deteriorating situation in Russia – 16 October 2006
• The Observer – with Index on Censorship – Article on death threats against journalists from terrorists and criminals – 12 November 2006

**TV Interviews**

• Irish Public TV – cartoons – February 2006
• Sky News, live debate at 7:30 – February 2006
• “On the pulse” noon TV show (ITV) – February 2006
• Dubai TV following the Danish cartoons crisis highlighting the need for enhanced dialogue between Islamic and European nations and stressing the importance of media self regulation and the adoption of professional standards by media institutions to ensure balanced reporting
• Peruvian regional TV and radio stations – Access to Sexual and reproductive Rights information - April 2006 -
• 15 mns debate on Sky News on David Irving’s conviction – March 2006
• Channel 5 news, on David Irving’s conviction – March 2006
• Interview with Al-Jazeera and Al-Mihwar during the Third Arab Reform Forum in Alexandria highlighting the central role of independent and progressive media in advocating for reform in the Arab world
• Nepal Televisions: every day during the week of the International Mission, September 2006
• BBC Global News, 8:00pm debate – on the French bill on the Armenian genocide

**Radio Interviews**

• Radio LCB – debate on censorship of fifty cents
• BBC World (radio) – Danish cartoons
• BBC Africa – Interview on the Central African Republic
• BBC Africa – Interview on the Congo
• BBC focus on Africa on freedom of expression in Gambia (April)
• Panapress, Jeuneafrique, Statement at the ACHPR (May)
• BBC Russia on the work of A19 in Russia and in the world
• Macedonian TV on need to decriminalise defamation
• Chelyabinsk, A19’s projects in Russia, in May
• Interview with City University for a student play on freedom of expression
• Interview for South African radio on freedom of expression in Zimbabwe
• Interview with south west radio on FOE in Zimbabwe
• BBC Persian: Interview with Iranian free lance journalist for BBC Persian – June 06
• Comment on the Macedonian elections to BBC World Today, 5 July 2005.

**Other interviews**

• 2 hours shooting for a Documentary on Civil Liberties in the UK – June 06

**The Persian Impediment: In the News**

**Persian news services:**
19 December 2006, Radio Farda
http://www.radiofarda.com/Article/2006/12/19/f3_victims_internet_blogger_iran.html
20 December 2006, Iran Global

**English news services:**
20 December 2006, NowPublic
http://www.nowpublic.com/irans_online_censors_the_persian_impediment
Blogs:
John Barnabas: ‘Article 19 has included a useful graphic on their website to show how the system of Iranian tyranny works.’
http://www.leithjb.net/blog/2007/01/04/persian-impediment/
Or Does it Explode: ‘The mother of all campaigns to expose and end censorship in Iran has been launched by Article 19, the British free expression organization. Perhaps the most valuable contribution of the site is this graphic that breaks down the dynamics of the byzantine tyranny.’
http://www.ordoesitexplode.com/me/2007/01/persian_impediment.html
Censorspace: ‘The Article 19 website is easy to navigate, well-organized and informative, and includes an interactive blog where users can contribute to a running debate on censorship. Their “Gagged Online” page is a fascinating read, listing everyone known to have been imprisoned or censored for views expressed online.’
http://censorspace.com/?tag=Article+19
Human Rights News From Iran,
http://www.hriran.org/news/?p=383
Morpheme Tales:
http://morphemetales.blogspot.com/2006/12/two-new-collective-blogs-on-iran.html
17 December 2006, lexferenda
http://www.lexferenda.com/
19 December 2006, Free Speech Law
http://pnblogs.blogspot.com/2006/12/persian-impediment.html
06 January 07, Egyptian Blogs Aggregator:
http://www.omraneya.net/node/104809

2. Public Profile
Other indicators of A19 increasing public profile and leadership within the policy, FoE and media community includes a large number of high level invitations:

- **Council of Europe**: In June, we were admitted as one of the few NGOs with observer status to the CoE Steering Committee on Media and New Communications Technologies and two of its expert groups, on public service broadcasting and on media in times of crisis. We also participated in a meeting of the CoE’s Group of Specialists on Access to Official Documents, which is in the process of developing a binding international treaty in the area of access to information. As one of only two civil society organisations represented at the meeting, ARTICLE 19 provided important counterweight to the governmental majority.
- **FCO**: Presentation to FCO staff on freedom of expression
- **FCO**: Invitation to address FCO Panel on Freedom of Religions
- **OSCE**: Key note speech – OSCE Human Dimension Meeting – for an audience of key diplomats
- ASEF: Participation to an Expert Group of 7 set up by ASEF to discuss Media and Cultures – One of 6 participants, including diplomats and activists
- UNESCO: World Press Freedom Day - Presentation on Freedom of Expression and Development
- World Bank: World Congress on Communication for Development: A19 one of the NGOs invited to present its work and recommendations to a policy audience
- Sudan: ARTICLE 19 travelled to Juba, in Southern Sudan. We addressed the Southern Sudanese President, Vice President and Cabinet of Ministers on the need to implement positive media and access to information laws. Draft laws were also submitted to the minister of information.
- World Congress on Communication for Development: ARTICLE 19 was one of the few organisations invited to present its work and findings to the participants of the Congress.
- ECRI – Key note address to a Council of Europe expert meeting on Racism and Freedom of Expression
- Swiss Government – Berne Process: Sole NGO invited to a governmental meeting on censorship in China
- Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust Ltd: Invited to a closed event to comment on the civil liberties and human rights in Britain in the aftermath of the Queens Speech, November 2006

3. Other

We organised a full day training on impact assessment with two external experts in February 2006. Programmes have included various indicators and approaches towards impact-driven projects, although this will need to remain an organisational priority for a few more years before it becomes fully integrated within ARTICLE 19. In particular, all staff are now mandated to identify indicators for the impact of their activities, monitor and report on this impact every three months (as part of our quarterly report to the board). The work conducted over the last year indicates that both the impact of our work and the process of gathering evidence on this impact are greatly strengthened by our presence on the ground. Two projects have been or are currently externally evaluated, including in Europe and Peru.
ARTICLE 19 managed to meet all its 2006 budget requirements, although the first 6 months were slow, resulting in the postponement of all the recruitments that had been planned towards the end of 2005. After August, a number of projects were approved, allowing us to recruit 2 posts, including that of resource mobilization manager, and Africa Program Officer. However, as a result of these delays, our final expenditures for 2006 amounted to 1,525,000, which is slightly lower than what we had anticipated.

Our year end balance was a small deficit of GBP 2,000. Unfortunately, currency loss for the year amounted to about 40,000 GBP, thus ruling out the possibility of increasing our reserves, as had been originally anticipated.

Our overall unrestricted income amounted 960,536, including 317,000 core donations (the rest is made up of core allocations from programmes and projects.).

As of 31 December 2006, free reserves amounted to a surplus of £39,000. We also set aside a £60,000 provision to cover dilapidation costs associated with our previous office and which are the object of on-going discussion and disagreement with the landlord. ARTICLE 19 Board has the objective of building a reserve equivalent to 6 months expenditure, with a target figure of £400,000.

At programmatic level, programmes managed to raise funds they had envisioned for the implementation of the planned projects. Some delays were experienced in Latin America, due to the difficulties in recruiting new staff members in Mexico and Brazil. These resulted in the postponement of some activities towards later in the year and early 2007. In general, however, the Latin America program has progressed extremely well (especially in view of the fact that it is the newest regional programme after the Middle East programme that was established last year).

The restructuring of ARTICLE 19 financial team and the improvements of its financial systems progressed greatly over the last 6 months. Activities included the development of a new Chart of Accounts, the full integration of our new financial software Quickbook at project and programmes level, the recruitment for the new post of Operational Director, etc.

Maintaining and strengthening core or unrestricted support remains a major concern for the organisation, along with funding for cutting edge or more controversial projects. Although we have done well over the last two years, in terms of fund-raising, the absence of reserves weakens the organisation, while greatly hampering effective operational and strategic planning.

Our main fund-raising successes in 2006 included many successful project-specific funding applications. In particular, we received funds from new or competitive donors, including the FCO Global Conflict Prevention Pool (for a project in North Caucasus), NED (for a project on Yemen), the Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Olof Palme Center (for a project on Sudan), and the Tides Foundation.
PROGRAMMES IMPLEMENTATION

AFRICA PROGRAMME IN 2006

Programme to Raise the Awareness of Regulatory Bodies on Policy and Regulation for Broadcasting Pluralism and Diversity

2006 Project Objectives
• To have established a consortium for the development and delivery of a training curriculum for regulators
• To have the endorsement of the training curriculum by the ‘Network of African Media Regulatory Bodies
• To have conducted one pilot ‘summer school’ for regulators
• To have increased awareness and understanding of broadcasting pluralism diversity and effective strategies for its promotion

Project Activities

In 2006, Article 19 published a manual on “Broadcasting Diversity and Pluralism” for media regulators, in collaboration with its advisory group consisting of academics from Europe and Africa. The manual concentrates on issues such as general principles of broadcasting regulation, structures of regulatory bodies, licensing, regulation of content (local content, hate speech, etc.) and complaints/sanctions mechanisms. A pilot “summer school” was conducted in January 2006 in Kampala, Uganda to evaluate the content and structure of the course and appraise its efficiency.

Thanks to this pilot course, where media regulators from six different countries were represented, the manual was revised and published through a “Creative Commons” copyright license. ARTICLE 19 will now work with academic institutions in Africa to incorporate broadcasting policy in the curriculum within their established programmes. In the first quarter of 2007 we will be calling representatives of African educational institutions together to take this forward. A proposal was submitted to l’Organisation pour la Francophonie for the translation of the curriculum into French. However, this proposal was unsuccessful. During 2006 we started negotiations with potential francophone partners for this project and hope to finalise this in 2007.

‘Right to Know’ – Including the Right to Access Information

2006 Project Objectives
• To raise awareness amongst broader civil society groups of the importance of access to information in their work
• To develop generic training materials on access to information.
• Build the capacity of civil society groups to advocate for appropriate legislation that meet needs of women/marginalized groups.
• Promote adoption and implementation of progressive access to information legislation in two selected English-speaking African countries

In 2005 Article 19 and Fahamu launched a CDrom long-distance course titled “Campaigning for Access to Information.” Members from a variety of civil society groups throughout Africa
participated in the first course, which enabled them to gain tools on how to successfully campaign for the right to know in their respective countries. In early 2006 a second regional distance course was conducted and a national course undertaken in Mombassa, Kenya in November 2006. ARTICLE 19 submitted a proposal to l’Organisation pour la Francophonie for the translation of the course into French, without success. We are planning further trainings in Kenya and Sierra Leone during 2007. During 2006 and early 2007, the contents of the CDROM were brought up to date and revisions made to suit the medium. The course contents were also made available online: the URL is:
http://rightstraining.fahamu.org/ocw/learning-for-change/campaigning-for-access-to-information/

Ongoing Monitoring, Research, Documentation and Rapid Response

2006 Project Objectives

- To develop effective responses when individuals and groups are persecuted for exercising legitimate freedom of expression
- To develop guidelines and methodologies for freedom of expression work in support of marginalised groups
- To advance the programmes ability to recognise and/predict trends and conduct overall freedom of expression analysis in the region
- To conduct full external evaluation of the programme

In 2006, Article 19 began more in depth monitoring of freedom of expression and elections processes in Africa. Indeed, Article 19 produced background reports and recommendations on Angola, DRC and Zambia. We also sent press releases and advocacy letters to concerned officials and organisation in these countries as well as in response to specific freedom of expression violations in the continent. Through this work, Article 19 was able to receive media coverage regarding its stance on freedom of expression in Africa. By the end of 2006 Article 19 also updated its database on elections and prioritised countries for our 2007 programme of work. Case studies and background reports are currently being drafted and will then be made available on the website. A full external evaluation of the programme was conducted and the report available in early 2007.

Strengthening Freedom of Expression under the Africa regional System

2006 Project Objectives

- To use the communication and State reporting procedures to bring issues to the attention of the ACHPR in promoting the use of the Declaration on Principles for Freedom of Expression in Africa within the peer review mechanism of the Africa Union/NEPAD
- Assist the work of the ACHPR Special Rapporteur on freedom of expression to
  (i) Foster the respect and fulfilment of the ACHPR Declaration on Freedom of Expression
  (ii) Better adherence to freedom of expression in West Africa
  (iii) Provide legal and advocacy tools to NGO to challenge violations
  (iv) Avenues for address provided through ECOWAS and ACHPR.

To achieve these objectives a checklist of benchmarking indicators was produced in November 2006 which will enable civil society organizations/researches to evaluate to what extent a country respects freedom of expression, in agreement with the African Declaration on Freedom of Expression. http://www.article19.org/pdfs/press/foe-checklist-pr.pdf. Following on from this a shadow report on Senegal was produced and can be found on our website and another
report on Sierra Leone is soon to be released. ARTICLE 19 has also facilitated a forum on freedom of expression with African media support and freedom of expression organisations, which was based in Senegal. The meeting was scheduled to take place in Gambia along side the AU Summit, but it was prevented by the Gambian Authorities.

The Forum looked critically at the obstacles to the enjoyment of freedom of expression on the continent and made series of recommendations to the AU leadership. Subsequently, ARTICLE 19 requested on behalf of the forum to meet the AU chair, the South African Ministry of Foreign affairs has been working closely with ARTICLE 19 to facilitate the communication. Also held in Senegal was a colloquium o the application of international standards of freedom of Expression to Senegal specifically; and the meeting addressed role of the media in the run up to the elections which also took place in 2006. Activities promoting freedom of expression also took place in Togo, Niger, and Liberia. With these objectives in mind, ARTICLE 19 conducted a legal analysis of the Namibian draft Communications Bill and made recommendations for improvement. The Memorandum on this analysis is also available on our website.

Promoting Freedom of Expression and Civil Society Involvement in Development of Democratic Media Legislation in Sudan

2006 Project Objectives

- To contribute to climate of free expression including a free and independent media and dynamic civil society, thus encouraging the emergency of democracy and social development that meets the needs of all citizens.

ARTICLE 19 has held a number of Media Round Tables, seminars and workshops in Sudan. A meeting held in Khartoum of expert committees on media laws reform, discussed the Press law, Pubic Radio and TV Law and the Transmission License Law. Legal experts and members of the media attended and offered advice to the legal committee drawing up drafts of the new laws. Subsequent workshops and conferences, some with as many as 200 participants, addressed the Press Law, law reform in Sudan with a focus on media law. Other activities to promote media law reform included a television debate on Sudan TV on the draft laws. ARTICLE 19 has conducted a number of interviews with journalists, editors and with the Chairman of the Information and Communication Committee for the Sudanese National Assembly. These interviews drew out concerns over media law reforms and recommendations for improvement. The interviews were followed-up with a roundtable meeting.

Other work ARTICLE 19 has been involved in to promote a climate of free expression and a free independent media is its contribution to a Southern Roundtable process along with other consortium member agencies (Norwegian People’s Aid and International Media Support). The first Roundtable meeting took place in February 2006 and was attended by media civil society organisations, the Ministry of Information, international organisations with included BBC World trust and UNESCO and members of the Consortium. The aim of these meetings of the ‘Task Force’ was to incorporate international best practice standards into draft media legislation. Discussions in following roundtables between the media, media civil society organisations and the Cabinet authorities also centred on the media regulatory system and the suggestion of a media code of ethics was put forward. Subsequently a code of ethic of the Southern Sudan print press was produced in 2007. ARTICLE 19 is assisting in the refinement of a draft media regulation Bill and with the consortium, agreed to create safety and protection monitoring mechanisms for media practitioners and professionals. We have also incorporated training and skills up-grading for interested groups in our tasks to assist the project objectives.
ASIA PROGRAMME IN 2006

Ensuring environment sustainability by securing communities’ access to relevant environmental information in Malaysia (Funded by GOF)

ARTICLE 19 together with the Centre for Independent Journalism, Kuala Lumpur and the Malaysian FOI Coalition launched a project seeking to increase awareness of the public’s right to information, and to build the capacity of civil society to campaign for better access to environmental information. In 2006, ARTICLE 19 and its partner conducted research on access to environmental information, organise a series of public awareness campaigns, provide training on FOI for activists, and draft and advocate the introduction of a FOI act.

Key Outputs:
- Capacity building: one workshop for civil society activists (Jan)
- Awareness raising campaigns: The campaign was officially launched on right to know day (28 Sept) with stickers, leaflets, etc.
- Coalition building:
  - SUKAHAM, the official human rights body, has joined the FOI Coalition
  - Meetings with AIDCOM and Centre for Policy Studies to discuss how they can promote RTI in Malaysia
  - Meetings with TI Malaysia
  - Meetings with Malaysia Environmental NGOs (MENGO)
  - Meetings with thinktanks such as ASLI and RESPI
- Research: The study is into the final stages of completion.
- Drafting FOI law:
  - Commitment from the Young Lawyers Association (part of Bar Council) to help the drafting
  - Meetings hosted to this end
  - Draft being prepared by us for adoption at the State level by Kelantan State
- Advocacy:
  - Met with TI Malaysia with a view to promoting advocacy through the Institut Integriti Malaysia (IIM).
  - Met with various MPs; we are planning a follow-up session with the back-benchers
  - Sessions with the Chinese community are planned as they are a natural constituency of support

Impact and successes:
- Notion of “access to information” or “right to information” has been more widely used (e.g. in the media) and by civil society activists.
- More organisations joining and aware of the FOI Coalition’s work.
- A complementary programme has been launched by the FOI Coalition and MENGO which aims at raising awareness on RTI to MENGO members and help them to use principles of access to information on their works (four capacity building trainings and a set of leaflets are planned within this project)
- The State of Kelantan has agreed to adopt an FOI Law and has asked the Coalition to draft it

Promoting law reform for greater media freedom in Nepal

We aimed at promoting a comprehensive programme of law reform in Nepal to create a positive enabling environment for media freedom
Key outputs:
- We participated in an international mission to Nepal which met with all party leaders and secured strong statements of commitment from them regarding media freedom and our outline reform proposals
- We have provided a Submission to the High Level Media Recommendations Commission, which was significantly reflected in their own report to the government
- We are providing an analysis of the draft FOI bill produced by the authorities

Campaigning against criminal defamation in South East Asia

We campaigned for decriminalising defamation and reform of civil defamation laws and their application in South East Asia. We supported national and regional campaigning initiatives by providing resources and expertise on international standards and good practice; and built capacity by training NGO activists and lawyers from the region. We also participated in SEAPA training for freedom of expression monitors in November. We collaborated on the development of a wider training for lawyers from SE Asia in Hong Kong (to take place in 2007).
EUROPE PROGRAMME IN 2006

Ukraine: Access to Information and environment (Project funded by the EC)

Project objectives
Improved application of freedom of information principles (in particular the Aarhus Convention) by targeted institutions, and strengthened civil society’s ability to access government-held environmental information.

Project outputs
- Local researchers conducted field research on the realities of access to environmental information in Lviv, Donetsk and Kyiv;
- Local partners conducted analysis of Ukrainian legislation on access to environmental information
- A19 produced a chapter on international standards of access to environmental information;
- Studied practice examples of access to environmental information in the UK (study visit of Ukrainian partners to UK; a series of meetings with UK government institutions by A19 and partners);
- A telephone hotline was established in the office of partner EcoPravo to provide legal assistance on the environmental information issues;
- Partner EcoPravo conducted litigation on access to environmental information

Project impact
- Raise awareness and knowledge of access to environmental information issues amongst those participating in the empirical research;
- 2 legal successes in court on access to environmental information

Abkhazia: development of consultative and responsive people-centred (in particular where it concerns the interests of women) policy-making (Project funded by the

Project objectives
The project promotes the development of consultative and responsive people-centred (in particular where it concerns the interests of women) policy-making and decision-making in Abkhazia. It addresses Abkhaz society’s need for greater transparency and credibility of public institutions, promoting good municipal governance and offering knowledge of mechanisms about how it may be achieved.

Project outputs
- A sociological survey was conducted by local researchers on access to information in Abkhazia and its impact on people’s lives, with a particular focus on women’s concerns, including numerous interviews and focus group discussions
- An analysis of legislation currently governing access to information in Abkhazia was conducted by a local lawyer
- A19 wrote a chapter on the human right to access information and its importance for development and socio-economic rights
- A draft law on freedom of information was developed by a local working group in Abkhazia + A19 commented on it
- Several articles were produced in local newspapers in Abkhazia on relevant access to information issues
A TV talk show was broadcast on Abkhaz TV on the importance of transparency and access to information

Project impact
- Raised awareness of the right to know / right to information amongst all the persons participating in the survey (more than 100), all key NGOs active in Abkhazia, as well as some members of parliament and representatives of governmental structures participating in the legal drafting group
- Mobilised civil society and journalists for the objectives of access to information in Abkhazia
- Draft law on access to information in Abkhazia

South Caucasus: Strengthen democracy through freedom of expression in the South Caucasus

Project outputs
The 3-year project ended in mid-2006. In 2006, we implemented some final project activities:
- Revisions and further development of training materials on freedom of expression for use in A19 trainings. We now have a comprehensive collection of training materials including outlines of modules, handouts and training exercises covering all key FOE topics.
- 1 strategy round-table with civil society in Azerbaijan to analyse current issues and decide on future priorities for FOE work in Azerbaijan;
- 4 public round-tables on current key FOE issues, one each in Georgia, Armenia, Abkhazia and Nagorny Karabakh
- 1 training of legal practitioners on defamation issues carried out by local partner in Nagorny Karabakh
- 2 training sessions for young lawyers from Abkhazia on legal defence of journalists
- 2 internships of partners from the region (Azerbaijan and South Ossetia) at A19 office in London

Project impact
- Improved capacity of A19 to conduct training on FOE issues (through increased training resources)
- Media coverage of round-tables in Georgia, Armenia, Abkhazia and Nagorny Karabakh
- Improved A19 regional strategy for further work in the Caucasus
- Increased knowledge and skills of young lawyers from conflict regions of Abkhazia and Nagorny Karabakh
- Provided partners from the region with useful learning experience and new contacts with relevant institutions in the UK

CIS: Monitoring and Campaigning in the CIS (Project funded by OSMN)

Project objective
To strengthen the respect for freedom of expression in the CIS region by endorsing local organisation’s advocacy and campaigning work, reminding governments of their international obligations, and offering ARTICLE 19 expertise to them.

Project outputs

Statements
- **Russia**: ARTICLE 19 Statement on Proposed Amendments to Extremism Law, 5 July 2006
- **Russia**: The Closure of the Russian-Chechen Friendship Society is a Violation of the Right of Freedom of Expression, 17 October 2006
- **Russia**: Statement on Proposed Amendments to Russian Environmental Legislation, 3 November 2006
- **Russia**: Statement on the Conviction of Russian Newspaper Editor Boris Stomakhin, 23 November 2006

**Letters**
- **Serbia**: insult laws, 22 February 2006
- **Belarus**: letter on beating of journalists, 22 March 2006
- **Kyrgyzstan**: letter to the president asking that he signs PSB draft law into law, 12 July 2006
- **Russia**: letter to the president, urging that he vetoes amendments to extremism legislation, 21 July 2006
- **Azerbaijan**: Arrests of and Attacks on Members of Media (Letter to President Ilham Aliyev regarding the growing number of arrests of and violent attacks on media representatives and the lack of transparency surrounding investigations into these incidents). 25 July 2006
- **Turkey** (together with law programme): Open letter to Turkey's President, expressing concern about the proposed amendments to the 1991 anti-terror law, 27 Jul 2006
- **Azerbaijan**: letter to the president urging him to facilitate implementation of FoI law, 15 September, 2006.
- **Armenia**: Letter to the Prosecutor General urging to ensure fair and transparent investigation on the attack on editor of Iravunk newspaper Hovhannes Galajyan (a reply received), 19 September 2006.
- **Russia**: letter to the president, on the criminal defamation case again a journalist from Noviye Kolesa, Kaliningrad, 28 September 2006
- **Russia**: Letter to the president on Anna Politkovskaya’s murder, 11 October 2006

**Press Releases**
- **Kazakhstan**: ARTICLE 19 Urges Kazakhstan President to Veto New Repressive Law, 4 July 2006 (in cooperation with Law Programme)
- **Ukraine**: Chernobyl anniversary see Launch of New Project on Access to Environmental Information, 26 April 2006
- **Russia**: New Report Reveals Russians Dying from Radiation Sickness as Environmental Information Kept Secret, 21 November 2006

**Project impact**
- Campaigning efforts of local organisations carrying more weight thanks to analysis of local developments in light of international standards on FOE provided by an international organisations
- Greater information for international bodies in relation to freedom of expression issues in the region
- Raised awareness of the need for the adoption of progressive FOE provisions in Moldova through a mission and participation in an event in Moldova

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Russia: Capacity Building for freedom of expression advocates and lawyers in Russian provinces (GOF Sustainable Development Programme)

Project objective

To improve the capacity of lawyers/human rights activists in the Russian regions to defend freedom of expression (FOE).

Project outputs

- 17 lawyers from the Russian regions trained in: Russian media law; international standards of FOE; legal defence of journalists through a one-week training
- 1 training resource pack was provided to the trainees and disseminated more widely in Russia
- 1 internship at the premises of the Mass Media Defence Center for 1 outstanding lawyer
- 1 evaluation carried out by A19 and MMDC
- 1 mission to the Ural region, to assess opportunity for legal defence activities in this area (and event on Press Freedom Day on the Journalists Faculty of Chelyabinsk University, 3 May 2006)
- 1 report, *The Forbidden Zone: Access to Environmental Information Denied*, November 2006 and Executive Summary
- Launch of the report *The Forbidden Zone*, with Greenpeace Russia, 21 November 2006, in London

Project impact

- Greater professionalism of lawyers working on FOE issues
- Greater awareness in Russia and internationally of the issues and obstacles to access to environmental information in Russia

Tajikistan: Freedom of Expression Training for Lawyers in Tajikistan (project funded by OSI)

Project objectives

- To improve the capacity of selected lawyers from across Tajikistan to defend freedom of expression and information as a key contributor to democratic reforms.
- To initiate a network of legal advocates working to protect FOE and link them with other civil society activists to better promote FOE.

Project outputs

- 18 lawyers from the Russian regions trained in: Tajik and Russian media law; international standards of FOE; legal defence of journalists through a one-week training
- Modules/exercises for the sessions
- 1 strategy meeting in Dushanbe with local stakeholders to map key FOE issues, to develop an action plan for local activists and devise A19’s strategy for the country.
- 1 strategy plan
- 3 interviews with the media (BBC Tajikistan and Deutsche Welle)
Project impact

- Greater professionalism of lawyers working on FOE issues
- Greater coordination between organisations working on FOE and between donors and grantees

Albania and Kosovo

Project objectives
Contribute to enabling Albania’s legal system to apply defamation legislation in line with best international human rights standards and practices, while strengthening the capacity of media actors in Albania and Kosovo to practice self-regulation and pursue high standards of professional ethics

Project outputs
- Advocacy for decriminalizing defamation in Albania through meetings with government officials and parliamentarians;
- Training of some 20 legal practitioners in Albania on defamation principles and application of Article 10 of the ECHR;
- A practical workshop with approx 30 journalists in Northern Albania to build support for the application of the new Media Council in Albania and the journalistic code of ethics;
- 2 TV debates in Kosovo to raise public awareness of the new Kosovar Press Council, its tasks and functioning

Project impact
- Amendments to decriminalize defamation have been put back on the agenda of the Albanian parliament (our work contributed to this success);
- Strengthened skills, knowledge and networks amongst the professionals trained in Albania;
- Increased number of persons aware of the Kosovar Press Council and its purpose.
LATIN AMERICA PROGRAMME IN 2006

Promoting adoption and implementation of progressive access to information legislation in Latin America (GOF Regional Project: Mexico, Brazil, Argentina)

2006 was a disappointing year for the civil society ATI coalition in Argentina which saw their five year campaign face a major setback with the loss of parliamentary status for the draft legislation for which they had lobbied so intensively. However, in Brazil there is growing interest in ATI as a transparency tool and a community is starting to form around the issue. The pro-poor debate in the country has been sustained in the wake of President Lula da Silva’s re-election into office. Civil society organizations, academics, journalists, and mostly university students, have made extensive use of the Mexican freedom of information legislation and consider it an important tool for their research and advocacy work. This is especially true of non-governmental organisations based in Mexico City working on sexual and reproductive health, women’s rights, and the environment. While the Federal Law has had its advances, at the local level access to information laws in many states end up only paying lip service to the right.

Outputs:

- Publication of cartoon booklet on the use of the City of Buenos Aires legislation on access to information.
- Publication of regional access to information guide for the private sector.
- Publication of access to information leaflets for the private sector in Mexico and Argentina
- 13 access to information training workshops held in Argentina (Buenos Aires, Cordoba, Chaco and Santa Fe) for members of the civil society organisations, government officials, and university students.
- Open letter to presidential candidates and associated press conference calling for pledges to pass access to information legislation in Brazil.
- Seminar for business people in Tijuana, Mexico, to increase their awareness of the FOI law, particularly the state level legislation. Key issues to emerge: concern within the private sector over the opacity of the public procurement process in Baja California where tenders are tailored to reflect the strengths of particular companies that enjoy a favourable relationship with individuals working for the authorities.
- Benchmarking document on the perception of Access to Information by the private sector in Mexico
- International seminar on FoI as a tool for economic, social and institutional development in Latin America.
- An international seminar in Argentina on ATI as a tool to promote economic, social and institutional development in region.
- Training sessions in Mexico to assist public officials to implement ATI legislation.
- Publication of user-friendly guides and leaflets on ATI in Argentina and Mexico.
- Following ARTICLE 19 and our Argentinean partner organisation’s legal analysis of the draft ATI law, which was widely circulated amongst parliamentarians, three municipalities have approached our partners for technical assistance in the drafting of their own legislation.
- There is a much greater discussion of ATI amongst more diverse civil society circles and – networks in all three countries.

Promoting access to information within the private sector in Mexico (Project funded by GOF and Hewlett Foundation)
This has been a challenging project. The human rights and business communities are not natural allies and there has been a considerable effort made by our staff in Mexico to prepare the ground work for a collaboration in this area. The private sector is traditionally nervous of engaging with civil society and many NGOs have allergies to the business community. As a result, very few institutions have worked with the private sector on issues of access to information in the past, despite the fact that businesses in many countries have been shown to be the largest user of ATI legislation.

The project has developed at a tentative pace but key achievements have been made, signified by the coming together of ARTICLE 19, Coparmex and the IFAI in a public meeting to launch and discuss the project. The consolidation of a working group with Coparmex has encouraged members of the private sector to begin using the ATI legislation, which will be built upon through training sessions in 2007. The training materials and publications already developed as part of this project have begin to ‘sensitise’ individuals who had no prior knowledge of the law.

Outputs:

- Strategy paper outlining private sector interests, political context to project, chief allies and opponents etc.
- Seminar for business people in Tijuana to increase their awareness of the FOI law, particularly the state level legislation. Key issues to emerge: concern within the private sector over the opacity of the public procurement process in Baja California where tenders are tailored to reflect the strengths of particular companies that enjoy a favourable relationship with individuals working for the authorities.
- Participation in the Collective for Transparency, a coalition of NGOs which support a coordinated strategy to shape and respond to key FOI issues within the country.
- Meetings with a range of actors within the private sector in order to push for the incorporation of an FOI component in their work.
- Draft working paper for the public procurement of medicines and FOI
- Participation in working group meetings with Coparmex-DF in order to establish a partnership to conduct the FOI monitoring exercise with the private sector
- National seminar “FOI as a tool for the private sector”
- Seminar for journalists to raise awareness of the FOI law amongst them.
- Participation in the international section of Mexico’s Transparency Week.
- Development of an FOI guide for the Private Sector

Success stories:

ARTICLE 19 and LIMAC conducted a workshop with members of the business sector in Tijuana, Baja California in June of 2006. There was great interest on the part of participants to use the local FOI legislation and some were keen to participate in working groups at a latter stage to share knowledge and their experiences. During the workshop, participants expressed their concern about the lack of transparency in public procurements within the State which was then addressed through a subsequent monitoring exercise.

In November 2006, ARTICLE 19 and Coparmex DF agreed to team up as partners during the implementation of the project. Coparmex confirmed its interest in promoting FOI and transparency within its membership. During a public event in November, Coparmex DF and ARTICLE 19 launched the project at the Coparemex’s General Assembly. At this meeting, attended by around 250 members of the business sector, the IFAI's president and also the
INFODF president were present and supported the project, making a public commitment to participate in the monitoring exercise that the Working Group will carry out in 2007.

**Fact-finding and campaigning against attacks against journalists and impunity in Colombia (funded by IMS)**

Colombia lives a 40-year-old civil war fuelled by a very powerful and ever present illegal drug trafficking industry. Government forces, paramilitary groups and guerrilla groups have killed thousands of civilians over the years. The Colombian conflict has been marked by human right violations and impunity. The background to the mission and the conference is a very difficult environment for FoE; Colombia ranked 131 in the recent press freedom index of RSF. Two journalists were killed early this year, there are continuous threats to the media and many media professionals see self-censorship as a tool for protection. Journalists, whether they are reporting the impunity derived from the government’s “Justice and Peace” initiative or the latest local corruption scandal, find themselves very often and literally in the sight of paramilitary or guerrilla forces, local criminals gangs or drug lords.

**Outputs:**

- Participation on international research mission to Barranquilla and participation in international conference on strategies for media support in Colombia.
- Designated as organisation to develop international campaign strategy against impunity in Colombia to be launched on May 3rd.

**Success stories:**

This project is ongoing but it was testament to ARTICLE 19’s reputation that the organisation was approached to coordinate a campaign on this issue.

**Promoting access to reproductive and sexual health rights of young people in Mexico (project funded by Ford Foundation, MacArthur Foundation and Hewlett Foundation)**

Even though a number of policies targeting young people and adolescents have been implemented since the 1970s, the social response to these changes has been limited and political will is not always present to push forth initiatives that empower young people to make informed decisions regarding their reproductive and sexual health. This is perhaps the most worrying aspect of the present political scenario in Mexico, where access to public information will be especially important for the general population, but mostly for young people to have scientific, secular, and high quality information on matters relating to their sexuality and reproduction.

Civil society organizations, academics, journalists, and mostly university students, have made extensive use of the freedom of information legislation and consider it an important tool for their research and advocacy work. This is especially true of non-governmental organisations based in Mexico City working on sexual and reproductive health, women’s rights, and the environment. However, there is a real need to promote the use of access to information legislation as a vital component in the promotion and protection of human rights throughout the country. While there are seriously organised and professional non-governmental organisations, many smaller and poorly funded groups do not understand the benefits that can be wrought by using access to
information legislation in their work. There is a clear need for training within these organisations so that advocates can appreciate the importance and centrality that access to information plays in their advocacy strategies.

Outputs:

- Strategy paper outlining the political climate, major obstacles to reproductive and sexual health, social context to project etc.
- 16 working group sessions with project partners
- Research trip to Guerrero (one of the poorest states in Mexico) to file information requests and to meet with local government bodies to assess their commitment and adherence to the access to information legislation.
- Monitoring exercise: issuing more than 100 information requests to different federal and local government agencies in Mexico City and Guerrero. Issues addressed include: maternal mortality, the supply and distribution of birth control methods and legal abortion services.
- Meeting with Ministry of Health officials, including the Director for the National Centre on Reproductive Health, representatives of the Centre for Disease Control, and members of the Information Office. Recommendations on how to improve information access were presented to attendees. Networking with international NGOs including the International Planned Parenthood Federation, the Population Council, UNIFEM and the Communications Consortium Media Centre.
- Development of an FOI guide for civil society organisations working on health
- Publication on The Right To Know: facilitating access to information on sexual and reproductive rights of young people in Mexico
- Information requests generated a number of staff meetings within the Ministry of Health which provided a new forum for officials to hear and respond to the public’s information needs.
- Establishment of a solid relationship with the IFAI. This includes their participation in the Health Working Group meetings, liaising with federal government offices in order to transmit civil society’s information needs, and supporting groups like this one to engage directly with Information Offices.
- Establishment of a relationship with the Ministry of Health’s Centre for Gender Equality and Reproductive Health and the Ministry’s Information Office.
- Pledge on behalf of Ministry of Health officials to upload quarterly reports onto their website on sexual and reproductive health matters.
- Pledge on behalf of Ministry of Health officials to upload current statistics and documents on abortion
- Pledge on behalf of Ministry of Health officials, together with the IFAI, to have a meeting with the Finance Ministry in order to challenge the current budgetary structure and make it easier to show public spending on health matters
- The Ministry of Health has now uploaded onto their website their quarterly reports on Reproductive Health and Gender Equality due to the number of information requests generated by our working group which pushed for this action.
- The Ministry of Health’s information office also told us that our information requests forced them to have various meetings in order to decide how to best respond and how to actively publish and generate the information as was solicited (i.e. in a more “accessible” manner).
- The Ministry of Health expressed the need to generate and publish info specifically targeted at young people and is actively seeking out to respond to the information needs of this sector of the population
- The IFAI (Federal ATI Institute) said that our project helped them realize the “limitations, obstacles, and quality of access to information by specific groups in a given subject”. The
experience and specialization of this working group demonstrates that it is not enough to comply with the ATI law in order to make information useful and accessible for exercising rights. The results of this exercise give fundamental feedback to the authorities in two ways: 1) in order for public offices to publish information that is useful and accessible to vulnerable groups, and 2) to improve the public policies and programmes in relation to sexual and reproductive health, as well as their evaluation and pertinence.” In addition, the meeting that the Working Group had with the MoH established an important precedent (it had never been done before), in order to establish communication amongst civil society organizations and the government in relation to freedom of information and how the authorities can best generate and publish good quality, accessible information for the general public”.
- Perhaps most importantly, the IFAI mentioned that through this monitoring exercise, the institute has come to fully understand the reality of the culture, the practices, and the general day-to-day workings of the authorities in terms of systematizing and publishing information. This experience has thus “forced them to transform their methodology in terms of training and capacity-building on ATI to the general public and to the authorities alike”.

Peru: Access to information and the reproductive and sexual health rights of women (project funded by DFID – LAST MONTHS)

Outputs:
- Workshops for public officials and civil society groups
- Publication of seminar reports
- Independent project evaluation carried out

Access to information and poverty reduction in Brazil (project funded by DFID)

During the presidential electoral campaign in 2006, the National Forum on Access to Information presented letters to all candidates requesting their commitment to addressing the issue of access to information in Brazil, specifically by proposing a draft law on the matter. President Lula da Silva undertook the commitment to present a draft law to the Congress if he were to be re-elected. Given this commitment, we believe this is an opportune moment to engage ARTICLE 19 in the debate on the principles that should guide the drafting of such a Bill. This is also a timely moment to raise awareness of the topic and expand the number and type of actors engaged in this debate, for example, by involving organizations working on development and poverty issues. Unfortunately, contrary to what we anticipated in late 2005/early 2006, it is improbable that a new law will be passed during 2007. The draft law that has been pending before Congress since 2003 seems to have been “cast off” due to the new possibility of drafting a proposal which would enjoy the support of the Executive. A new draft law presented by the Executive would re-start the discussions on access to information within Congress, but would be subject to internal procedures which would probably not be completed before the end of 2007.

Outputs:
- Publications:
  - Guide on access to information to NGOs, CBOs and community leaders
  - Guide on access to information to government officials
- Executive summary of a research on legislation, case law and best practices on access to information in Brazil, which will be completed in Year 3 of the project (scoping exercise)
- Roundtables on access to information in Sao Paulo, Brasilia and Porto Alegre
- Campaign materials
- Participation in the meeting of the National Forum on Access to Information
- Created important partnerships with key human rights and development organizations in Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Brasilia and Porto Alegre, guaranteeing (i) long-lasting cooperation for future joint initiatives on access to information, and (ii) acceptance of project work in this area by local actors
- Involved a significant number of organizations in the debate on access to information in Brazil which were not working or following up the issue before
- Deepened the debate on the content and extension of the right to access to information with organizations that were already familiar with the topic
- Brought an international human rights perspective to the debate around the adoption of a specific legislation on access to information at the national level

**Fact-Finding Missions to Central America**

In 2006, two missions were carried out to Central America, including Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and El Salvador. The purpose of these missions was to meet with key individuals and organisations working in the freedom of expression field in order to assess the current state of affairs, where the most significant obstacles to the full enjoyment of these rights lie and how ARTICLE 19 might be able to address them in future work.

The trips reinforced the need for continued work on access to information in the Central American region both in terms of commenting on draft legislation and creating the neutral space necessary for activists and ATI detractors to debate the issue. The trips also highlighted the ongoing problem of media concentration in the region, although any work in this area would need to be fairly cautiously developed, perhaps beginning with the analyses of current media laws. In Nicaragua, there was some interest in ARTICLE 19 becoming involved in a movement to protect the operation of community radios which our staff in Mexico have since explored further.

The current, relevant information gathered and the contacts made will together inform our decisions over our next steps. Whilst our office in Mexico is currently heavily focused on national projects, it is expected that this will be a base for the development of new projects with a regional scope. One of the most obvious ways forward is to share our best practice and experience in other Latin American countries with actors in Central America who tend often to be excluded from region-wide debates and activities.
LAW PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

The Law Programme maintained its impressive output in 2006 in terms of legal analyses, participation in meetings and conferences, litigation and publications. We produced nearly 50 in-depth analyses and comments on draft or existing laws under the rubric of our Media Law Analysis Unit (MLAU) and attended over 30 meetings, workshops and conferences with a variety of focuses, including awareness raising, advocacy and standard-setting.

Thematically, two important foci for us were anti-terrorism laws and hate speech. On the former, we made submissions to legal processes in the UK and Australia, and also participated in an International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) process to expose the human rights impact of these laws globally. We considerably advanced our thinking on hate speech issues, participating in a global conference on the matter at the Central European University (and publishing an academic paper based on our presentation there), intervening in developments such as the French attempt to introduce legislation prohibiting denial of the Armenian genocide, fostering an International Board discussion on our policy and introducing this topic into the annual Joint Declaration of the special mandates on freedom of expression.

We reinvigorated our engagement with the Council of Europe, being accepted as an observer on several of their new groups and participating actively in those groups. We also included the four special mandates, the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression, for the first time in the annual Joint Declaration noted above. We provided new briefs in two cases at the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, one case before the African Commission and a new case at the UN Human Rights Committee, as well as briefs in two cases at national courts over the course of the year.

Our publications record was also strong. We finally completed the relevant website work to upload our online Handbook, which is now ongoing. We published the Central Asian Pocketbook on Freedom of Expression, to be formally launched in early 2007. We also completed our Defamation ABC: A simple introduction to key concepts of defamation law, which has been translated and published in Arabic, French, Russian and Spanish as well, of course, as English. We published, in English and Arabic, A Media Policy for Iraq, based on extensive consultation with local groups there. This has provided an important basis for our ongoing work in the country, recently substantially reinvigorated with new funding. Finally, we formally launched the Transparency Charter for International Financial Institutions: Claiming our Right to Know, the Global Transparency Initiative’s flagship policy statement, which is now the subject of a global endorsement campaign.

Strengthen open governance globally: Media Law Analysis Unit (OSMN) and the Global Transparency Initiative (Ford Foundation)

Under this objective, we aimed to promote the adoption and implementation of progressive access to information legislation globally. Additionally, we promoted transparency and accountability of international actors, including IGOs and multi-nationals. The main projects to achieve these results were the Media Law Analysis Unit and the Global Transparency Initiative.

Outputs:
• We participated in a process at the Council of Europe to draft a formal Treaty on access to information. We have observer status on the Group of Experts that is producing a first draft, which allows us full rights of participation save for voting in that group.

• We provided comments and analysis on draft freedom of information laws and instruments in 13 different countries and institutions. Our comments ranged from in-depth commentary to shorter briefing papers on pertinent points of concern.

• We participated in numerous meetings around the world to present papers or take part in discussion on matters related to freedom of information.

• As part of our work with the GTI, we produced a number of outputs as follows: a follow-up letter to EIB on their policy; 2 letters, one formal submission and a further submission, to the EBRD; the Charter Launch in September; London Charter Launch in November; inclusion of this issue in the Joint Declaration we prepared for adoption by the four special mandates on freedom of expression, including recognition of the Charter.

• We also produced an A19 policy on FOI.

Impact:

• We are able to provide positive and guiding input into the drafting process for the Council of Europe’s FOI treaty.

• The FOI law in Macedonia was substantially improved, in line with our recommendations.

• The FOI law in Kyrgyzstan was amended based in part on our Principles and Model Law.

• Both EIB and EBRD significantly amended their policies to reflect GTI concerns. The EBRD has also indicated that it will conduct a full review of its policy just next year, in response to our criticisms of the last review, even though they had indicated strong resistance to this earlier. Both Dfid and ODI indicated interest in implementing the Charter. The Charter launch was very successful and raised the profile of the campaign significantly, and the endorsement campaign is going well. More funding has been secured (although we are still far below our overall, albeit ambitious, target). This will, among other things, allow us to hire a full-time outreach coordinator. We have continued to deal with the problems of running a large global coalition well.

Safeguarding pluralism and diversity of views (OSMN)

Monitoring and campaigning new and old forms of censorship are a key component of addressing the issue of pluralism and diversity. We monitored and campaigned against the wide-spread use of defamation laws and advanced our work on the controversial issue of hate speech.

Outputs:

• We commented on proposed restrictions on what the media may publish in 15 different laws.

• We intervened in two cases in national courts on issues of libel and alleged incitement to hatred.

• We published a Pocketbook on Freedom of Expression for Central Asia.

• We are arguing two cases on publishing restrictions before the UN Human Rights Committee.

• We worked to improve the freedom of expression provisions in Iraq’s Constitution.
As part of our Global Defamation campaign, we produced a ‘Defamation ABC’, explaining basic concepts and terminology in defamation law. As of mid-December, the ABC had been finalised and was being translated into 4 languages. A pamphlet arguing, on the basis of concrete cases, why criminal defamation laws are problematic and should be repealed was being edited and work had commenced on a commentary to *Defining Defamation*, our set of defamation principles published in 2000, which will double as the chapter on defamation in the *Freedom of Expression Handbook*, 2nd edition.

We also used our Media Law Analysis Unit (MLAU) to produce analyses of draft defamation laws in the Maldives, Ireland and Azerbaijan. Furthermore, we assisted our regional programmes in drafting press releases and protest letters relating to the abuse of defamation laws in a number of countries, including Lebanon, Cambodia, Russia and Turkey.

We presented an updated paper on ARTICLE 19’s Hate Speech policy to the international board in June, at which time a discussion was held on it. Toby and Agnes attended a conference on Hate Speech in Hungary in April 2006, where both presented papers. Toby also produced a paper for publication coming from this meeting. A press release was produced criticising the French government’s plans to introduce an Armenian genocide denial law. We also produced a paper on this, although it is still to be finalised. Finally, this issue was addressed in some detail in the Joint Declaration we prepared for adoption by the four special mandates on freedom of expression.

**Impact:**

- Both the cases we intervened in were dropped.
- We had press coverage of many of the above outputs, including on our privacy and defamation work in Ireland and our work on the media law in the Cook Islands.
- We had significant MLAU successes, with significant follow-up on our recommendations including on public service broadcasting in Hong Kong, defamation law in the Maldives, a media law in the Cook Islands and the broadcasting law for Moldova.
- We have begun the process of uploading new content to the on-line Freedom of Expression Handbook.
- Our work on the Iraqi constitution received significant local support, including from the Iraqi media regulator and the Ministry of Human Rights.
- In March, a Thai court dismissed a private prosecution for defamation brought by Shin Corp, a company close to the then prime minister’s family, against civil society campaigner Supinya Klagnarong and the *Thai Post*. ARTICLE 19 had applied pressure through press releases and an *amicus curiae* brief, which had however been ruled out on procedural grounds. The decision was hailed as a major victory for free speech in Thailand.
- Similar successes were achieved in February in Indonesia, when the Supreme Court overturned an editor-in-chief’s conviction for libel, and in April in Lebanon, when charges were dropped against a human rights lawyer who had criticised the country’s military tribunals. In Cambodia and Macedonia, defamation laws were amended to abolish imprisonment as a sanction. All these developments followed joint advocacy by ARTICLE 19’s Law and regional programmes.
- The release of our Defamation ABC in late November coincided with the launch of a worldwide criminal defamation campaign by International PEN. PEN decided to make the ABC part of the package of materials sent to its national chapters, and made extensive reference to *Defining Defamation* in its own pamphlets.
• We have advanced our thinking on the issue of hate speech very considerably over the year, developing more sophisticated and clear positions on genocide denial, blasphemy (which is related) and incitement. We have also positioned A19 more clearly in the global movement on this issue and will continue to move forward with this. We have a plan to meet up with various anti-racist groups to try to forge some consensus with them on the issue. At the same time, it is a very challenging issue for A19 (see below).

Protect and strengthen freedom of expression threatened by conflicts and security agenda – MLAU (OSMN)

In the international political climate of the post 9-11 era, the security agenda is one of the key priorities for public officials and civil society. We are very concerned with this issue and constantly seek to deepen our understanding of security issues and how our work can help preventing the perpetuation of violence at the global level.

Outputs:

• We produced legal analyses critiquing the wide definition of terrorism in the UK and new proposals regarding the use of sedition law in Australia.
• We made a submission to a High Level Panel of jurists set up by the International Commission of Jurists on the impact of anti-terror laws in the UK on the right to freedom of expression.
• We produced a statement on a new Law on Extremism in Russia.
• We produced a statement on a proposed new French law that would criminalise denying the Armenian holocaust.

Impact:

• The Australian Law Commission shared many of our concerns on sedition law, and a subsequent proposal was amended in line with many of our recommendations.
• Our statement on the Russian Law on Extremism received good press coverage and helped our partners lobby against this law.
• Developments on the UK terrorist laws are very much on-going.

Zimbabwe Litigation (OSISA)

Much of our work in this area has taken place through our Zimbabwe Litigation project funded by the Open Society Institute for Southern Africa (OSISA). As can be seen below, we reported thoroughly on this issue and disseminated information to civil society organisations.

Outputs:

• High-quality, up-to-date Communication Summary and Admissibility Brief arguing that the Broadcasting Services Act 2001 breaches the right to freedom of expression, in particular as guaranteed by the African Charter of Human and Peoples’ Rights, in a number of respects.
• Lodging the Admissibility Brief as part of a formal communication before the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights, including all of the procedural measures this implies.
• Lodging Points in Reply to the Respondent State’s submission. This constituted further written submissions for the Admissibility Hearing.
• Appropriate publicity and dissemination of case materials, and of information about procedural developments in the case and the case outcome.
• Periodic reporting of case updates to funder.
• In regard to the separate challenge to the AIPPA, ARTICLE 19 has been joined as a co-author to a Communication filed by local Zimbabwean civil society organisations. As a result of this Communication, the Zimbabwean government has agreed to review the AIPPA, working from the basis of the civil society proposed re-draft of the AIPPA. The Respondent State is now required to report back to the African Commission at its next Session on what concrete measures it has taken in consultation with civil society, or the Communication will be pursued as a priority.

Impact:

• Greater pressure for liberalisation of the airwaves and respect for freedom of expression in Zimbabwe.
• Successfully requiring Zimbabwe to make written submissions for the Admissibility Hearing. The written submissions have demonstrated that the Respondent State’s case is weak and there are good prospects of success.
• In 2006, Zimbabwe initiated a thorough review of its legislation impacting upon the right to freedom of expression as a result of pressure from the African Commission and civil society organisations, including ARTICLE 19.
ANNEX ONE

IMPACT OF OUR ACTIVITIES - SAMPLE

- **Africa – Regulators Training**: After conducting the pilot training course for regulators we have received confirmation from the Chairperson of the African Communication Regulation Authorities Network that they consider the training beneficial to broadcasting regulators and that they wish to cooperate in extending the training to regulators in French and Portuguese speaking countries.

- Here is what Prof. Tawana Kupe, Associate Professor of Media Studies and Head of School, School of Literature & Language Studies, University of the Witwatersrand had to say: “The manual should be sent to University departments of Media Studies, Journalism and Communication most of which in Southern Africa at least have courses on media policy and regulation. This year in my own courses I used the manual quite a lot and it works very well for introducing the issues to students. Some have also started writing to newspapers etc to raise issues of independent regulation”.

- Julieta Langa the Chairperson of the African Communication Regulation Authorities Network (ACRAN) wrote: “Let me congratulate you and your team for the successful completion of the curriculum and manual of broadcasting for regulators, as well as for the success of the pilot training held in Kampala, Uganda. As part of the group that attended the pilot training I have got a lot of benefit from the exchange and I expect that ARTICLE 19 and ACRAN will cooperate to extend the training to regulators from both French and Portuguese speaking countries and institutions.”

- The de-facto President of Abkhazia and a number of parliamentarians have expressed their support for the creation of a framework for public access to information, following interventions and meetings by ARTICLE 19 and its partner, the Media Club.

- **African Commission**: The Executive Director of PANOS West Africa thanked ARTICLE 19 for the series of awareness raising activities on the African Commission on Human and People’s Rights. As a direct result of our advocacy work, PANOS decided to apply for an observer status with the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights.

- In Australia, the Law Commission picked up on many of the concerns we reported in our submission to them on the law of sedition. Our submission was cited over 20 times in the Commission’s Discussion Paper released in May 2006 and the Commission adopted ARTICLE 19’s policy stance in several significant respects, calling upon the Australian government to remove the term ‘sedition’ from the federal statute book, to replace the offences with narrowly drafted offences banning incitement to violence against the government or identifiable groups, and to drop proposals to adopt the offences of ‘glorification’ or ‘encouragement’ of terrorism, which had previously been adopted in the UK.

- We provided an legal analysis on the proposed Cayman Islands Freedom of Information Act in May 2006. We monitored developments on the draft Bill throughout 2006 and, following news reports in December 2006 that the Caymans Islands Legislative Assembly were due to consider the draft FOI Bill, we contacted a senior civil servant at the Cayman
Islands Cabinet Office and worked with him over the course of two weeks on a number of issues relating to amendment of the draft Bill before it was tabled before the Legislative Assembly.

- **China:** Following our participation in the most recent EU-China human rights dialogue seminar, various A19 papers have been translated and published in China:
  - Paper on restrictions on freedom of expression
  - Defining Defamation
  - Report on Self-Regulation in South East Europe

- **Cambodia:** The Cambodian Prime Minister announced that Cambodia would not reject the current draft of the Penal Code, and would decriminalise defamation – following a campaign by A19 and its local partners.

- In 2006, the **European Commission** abandoned a proposal to allow plaintiffs in defamation cases to bring legal action in any country where the publication had been downloaded. ARTICLE 19 and others had been lobbying the Commission to drop this proposal since 2004.

- Our critical analysis of the **Fiji** Broadcasting Law was widely reported in the local press and discussed by the Fijian government.

- In **Kenya**, we commented on proposed bills on freedom of information, broadcasting and a media council, as well as on a new media policy. Officials acted on our warning not to merge the FOI and Media Bills. All three bills are still at the pre-legislative stage, but our comments received considerable attention in the Kenyan media. Amongst others, our critique of the proposed Media Bill was reported in Kenya’s leading daily, the Nation, while our critique of the proposed Broadcasting Bill is featured on the homepage of the Ministry of Communication.

- In **Hong Kong**, the Legislative Council Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting picked up on the concerns we expressed in our submission to a Hong Kong government-led review of public service broadcasting. LegCo councillors subsequently initiated their own review of public service broadcasting, proposing to strengthen it and enhance the independence of Hong Kong’s public service broadcaster RTHK.

- **Lebanon:** Dropping of charges against Lebanese human rights lawyer – we successfully lobbied the Lebanese authorities for the dropping of criminal defamation charges against a high profile human rights lawyer, Dr Mohammed Mugragby.

- **International Mission to the Maldives:** Shortly after the International Mission to the Maldives in May, the government acted on a number of recommendations we had made, including the release of political dissidents, prisoners of conscience, changes to draft laws, etc.

- Our critique of the proposal to criminalise religious defamation in the **Maldives** has been picked up by the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion and Belief, who raised the issue in a mission. Our analysis of a proposed defamation bill and a proposed media bill also provided vital legal arguments to the on-going international NGO coalition.
working to improve human rights and media freedom there, as well as to local campaigners. We remain actively involved in activities in the Maldives.

- On January 25th, five years of joint campaigning by ARTICLE 19 and our partners in Macedonia bore fruit when the parliament adopted a progressive freedom of information act. The final version included several crucial last-minute improvements suggested by ARTICLE 19, such as protection for whistleblowers and the establishment of a dedicated freedom of information commission.

- Mexico: The Ministry of Health has now uploaded onto their website their quarterly reports on Reproductive Health and Gender Equality due to the number of information requests generated by our working group. The Ministry of Health’s information office also told us that our information requests forced them to have various meetings in order to decide how to best respond and how to actively publish and generate the information as was solicited (i.e. in a more “accessible” manner). The IFAI (Federal Access To Information Institute) said that our project helped them realize the “limitations, obstacles, and quality of access to information by specific groups in a given subject. The experience and specialization of this Working group demonstrates that it is not enough to comply with the ATI law in order to make information useful and accessible for exercising rights. The results of this exercise give fundamental feedback to the authorities in two ways: 1) in order for public offices to publish information that is useful and accessible to vulnerable groups, and 2) to improve the public policies and programmes in relation to sexual and reproductive health, as well as their evaluation and pertinence.” Perhaps most importantly, the IFAI mentioned that through this monitoring exercise, the institute has come to fully understand the reality of the culture, the practices, and the general day-to-day workings of the authorities in terms of systematizing and publishing information. This experience has thus “forced them to transform their methodology in terms of training and capacity-building on ATI to the general public and to the authorities alike”.

- The state government of Kelantan, Malaysia has asked our partner, the FOIA Coalition, to draft an FOI legislation for them. This request has been aired in a televised interview with the state official.

- The Moldovan Audiovisual Code was substantially improved in line with recommendations we made in April 2006. Amongst other things, civil society can now nominate members for the new broadcast regulator and the mandate of the public service broadcaster has been improved. Subsequent analyses by both the Council of Europe and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe substantially echoed our recommendations, as well as making explicit reference to ARTICLE 19 publications, such as A Model Public Service Broadcasting Law. The final version of the Audiovisual Code, adopted on 27 July 2006, contains key amendments first suggested by ARTICLE 19.

- The official Mongolian draft Freedom of Information Law, which was itself in part due to ongoing advocacy by ARTICLE 19 and its partners, was substantially redrafted following our comments. The Bill was rejected by the cabinet in late 2006, but it has been picked up by independent MPs and we are still hopeful that it will be adopted by Parliament.
• **Nepal**: Both international missions there were successful – the first in terms of showing our solidarity with the media sector (at the forefront of the opposition to the King coup) and strengthening the democratic voices; the second in terms of ensuring that the new Constitution and draft laws reflect international standards and best practices. The second mission has already led to a small programme of cooperation funded by UNESCO and a larger programme of cooperation is expected to follow.

• The **Nepalese** draft Right to Information Bill has been substantially improved following detailed comments provided by ARTICLE 19. Key among these are a narrower regime of exceptions, the right to an independent administrative level of appeal, and protection for good faith (but mistaken) disclosures.

• In **Southern Sudan**, we are part of a coalition proposing new laws on freedom of information, broadcasting, media regulation and public service broadcasting. The laws drafted by us have been presented to the Minister of Information, who referred to them in the press as the ministry’s main legislative work. At the time of writing, the Bills were about to be presented to Parliament.

• In **Senegal**, we have introduced ARTCILE 19 to the Journalist schools. One of last year student is current preparing an expose on ARTICLE 19 as part of their series of Seminar.

• The **ASEAN baseline studies**: in addition to numerous requests for hardcopies, these studies prove to be the one of the most accessed ARTICLE 19 document on the A19 website.

• ARTICLE 19 successfully campaigned for improvements to the **European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)** Information Disclosure Policy, including appeal rights for stakeholders outside the EU. The policy was adopted in May. A number of civil society organisations have already endorsed the GTI Transparency Charter

• **Yemen**: The Final Communiqué of the Sana’a Conference on Democracy, Political Reforms and Freedom of Expression contains unusually strong recommendations on freedom of expression, included as a result of ARTICLE 19’s lobbying.
ANNEX TWO – MAIN PUBLICATIONS

Policy and Advocacy Reports

1. Argentina: Cartoon booklet on access to information in Argentina, Nov 06
7. Armenia: Statement of Support for a set of regulations drafted by Armenia's FOI Center to implement the Freedom of Information Law, Sept 06
9. Defamation ABC: Campaigning tool providing an introduction to defamation law, Nov 2006
11. International Commission of Jurists: Submission to the High Level Panel on Terrorism, April 2006
13. Iran: Situation of writers in Iran, Exiled Writers Inc. (Sept 06)
14. Lebanon: we have won the battle but not the war - May 06
17. Peru: Report on Workshops for Women’s Organisations Working on Reproductive and Sexual Health Rights, July 2006
19. Russia: Letter to the President, defamation charges against journalist from Novyiye Kolesa, Kaliningrad, Letter to the president on Anna Politkovskaya’s murder, Oct 06; The Forbidden Zone: Access to Environmental Information Denied, November 2006; The Closure of the Russian-Chechen Friendship Society is a Violation of the Right of Freedom of Expression, Oct 06; Statement on Proposed Amendments to Russian Environmental Legislation, Nov06; Statement on the Conviction of Russian Newspaper Editor Boris Stomakhin, Nov 2006;

Legal Analyses and Memorandums

25. Afghanistan: Memorandum on Media Law, April 2006
26. Abkhazia: Memorandum on the draft law of Abkhazia on the right of access to information, Sept 06
28. Azerbaijan: Memorandum on the draft Law of Azerbaijan on Defamation, Oct 06;
30. Cook Islands: Memorandum on the draft Media Bill, Nov 06
31. Council of Europe: Memorandum on Treaty on Access to Official Documents, Nov 06
33. European Investment Bank: Note on Information Disclosure Policy
34. European Bank for Reconstruction and Development: Briefing note on the Bank’s Public Information Policy, Dec 06
35. Fiji: Memorandum on Freedom of Information Law, August 2006
36. Fiji: Memorandum on Broadcasting Law, August 2006
37. Georgia: Memorandum on Proposed Broadcasting Code of Conduct
38. Google’s Diluted Message: Statement on censorship on Google.cn, February 2006
40. Hong Kong: Submission to Review of Public Service Broadcasting, April 2006
41. Ireland: Memorandum on Privacy and Defamation Bill
42. International Commission of Jurists: Submission to the High Level Panel on Terrorism, April 2006
43. Iran: Memorandum on Press Law, March 200
44. Iraq: Memorandum on the Constitution, February 2006
45. Ireland: Memorandum on the Irish draft Defamation and Privacy Bills, Sept 06
46. Jordan: Memorandum on Broadcasting Regulations, March 2006
47. Kazakhstan: Memorandum on Kazakhstan’s Media Law, as amended in July 2006, Sept 06
48. Kyrgyzstan: Memorandum on the draft Freedom of Information Act, Oct 06
49. Kyrgyzstan: Letter to the President re. PSB draft law, July.
51. Kazakhstan: Memorandum on full Media Law, August 2006
56. Malaysia: Memorandum on the Media Law, July 2006
57. Maldives: Memorandum on Press Law, May 2006
58. Moldova: Memorandum on a Proposed Transparency Law, June 2006
59. Moldova: Memorandum on Broadcasting Laws, April 2006
61. **Nepal**: Memorandum of the draft Freedom of Information Act, December 2006; Nepal: Submission to the High Level Media Council, Sept 06
62. **Namibia**: Memorandum on the Communications Bill, July 2006
63. **South Sudan**: Proposal for a Public Service Broadcasting Bill, April 2006
64. **South Sudan**: Proposal for a Draft Broadcasting Bill, April 2006
65. **UK**: Memorandum on Statutory Definition of Terrorism, April 2006

**Statements to authorities:**

1. **Azerbaijan**: Letter to President regarding slow implementation of FOI law. Sept.
2. **Azerbaijan**: Letter to President Ilham Aliyev regarding arrests/violent attacks on media representatives, July.
4. **Bahrain**: Letter on a Proposed Law on Assembly (With Amnesty International), June 2006
5. **Bahrain**: Press release on the new Bahraini Gatherings Code (Joint statement by Amnesty International and ARTICLE 19) (June 06)
6. **Belarus**: Letter to the General Prosecutor in Relation to the Beating of Journalist, Aleh Ulevich, 22 March 2006
7. **Burma**: Letter urging UN Security Council to adopt a resolution on Burma, Nov 06
9. **Ghana, Cote d’Ivoire**: Support for Kimberley Process, Nov 06
10. **Lebanon**: Concern over prosecution of human rights Lawyer Dr. Muhamad Mughraby (Joint statement by Amnesty International and ARTICLE 19) (April 06)
11. **Malaysia**: ARTICLE 19/CIJ urge Malaysian Parliament to amend the Press Council Bill
12. **Malaysia**: 18 Books banned for disrupting peace and harmony
13. **Maldives**: Letter to the President of Maldives regarding the draft defamation bill
14. **Mexico**: Letter to Presidential Candidates Urging them to Pledge their commitment to Access to Information. June 2006
15. **Mexico**: Campaign letter directed to Mexico’s Ministry of Education calling for resistance to pressure by Conservative groups to ban textbooks in secondary schools used for sex education
16. **Mexico**: Letter sent to President Fox and IFAI Commissioners asking for a reinforced commitment to the independence and autonomy of the IFAI (published in Mexican newspaper)
17. **Russia**: Letter to the President, urging veto of amendments to extremism legislation, July.
18. **Sudan**: Statement against Attacks on Media and Peaceful Protestors in Sudan
19. **Serbia**: Letter to President Condemning Insult Laws, February 2006
20. **Turkey**: Letter to President regarding amendments to the anti-terror law, July (jointly with Law Programme).
21. Letter to the **UNHCR** in Van, Turkey outlining the dangers journalists face in Iran and in support of the claim made by journalist Fazel Ghasemi who fled Iran Turkey and requested our support. (Sept 06)
22. **Zambia**: Statement on the Media and Elections in Zambia
ANNEX THREE

ARTICLE 19 PARTNERS

ARTICLE 19’s reputation resides in its development of an extensive partnership network across the world. ARTICLE 19 believes that the most effective and principled way to promote and implement institutional, cultural and legal change is to work in partnership with domestic groups. This approach enables us to facilitate relationships amongst civil society actors on a national and international level and promote best-practice models from around the world. All our projects build the capacity of local organisations to ensure they are able to continue working in the future with decreasing international involvement and support.

At present, we work with **88 domestic implementing partners**, active in areas such as human rights, freedom of information, the media, women, health and the environment. This is **20 more groups** than in 2005, mostly through our work in Latin America and the Middle East).

We have **12 international partners**, work closely with 5 regional and international instruments, and are member to **12 coalitions**. In addition, the implementation of our projects involves around **100 grass-roots organisations** who participate to our training sessions, workshops, strategy meetings and evaluations.

**ARTICLE 19 is an active member of the following coalitions or groups:**

1. **Armenia, Media legislation working group**: It was set up at the initiative of the OSCE Ambassador in Armenia two years ago and includes approximately 30 members – international and national organisations working in the fields of freedom of expression and freedom of information, such as ARTICLE 19, Internews, ABA/CEELI, Eurasia Foundation, OSI Armenia, Council of Europe Representative in Armenia, DFID of the British Embassy, Freedom of Information Centre, Yerevan Press Club, Media Law Institute, Committee to Protect Free Speech and other professional groups.

2. **Azerbaijan, Parliamentary/NGO Working Group for drafting freedom of information legislation**: set up by the Azerbaijani Government in 2003 at the instigation of ARTICLE 19. It includes 15 members – international organisations, local media NGOs and members of the Azerbaijani Parliament, such as: ARTICLE 19, Internews, Yeni Nesil Union of Journalists, RUH (Committee to Protect Journalists), Press Council, Freedom of Speech Foundation, Baku Press Club, and Media Rights Institute. This group is currently expanded to include the larger NGO community for the purpose of developing a strategy for the implementation of the recently adopted FOI Law.

3. **Burma Campaign UK**: The Campaign aims at achieving the restoration of human rights and democracy in Burma by raising public awareness of issues relating to Burma and increasing international pressure on UK govt, EU, ASEAN and UN.

4. **Freedom of Information Advocate’s Network (FOIA)**: The FOIA Network aims to help NGOs with campaigning, advocacy, and fundraising, through exchange of information, ideas, strategies and by providing a forum for collaboration. The FOIA Network also aims to facilitate the forming of coalitions of NGOs to address FOI issues at a regional or global level. It currently has **55 member organisations** from around the world. – ARTICLE 19 is a member of its Steering Committee.
5. **Global Transparency Initiative (GTI):** The GTI is a network of civil society organisations promoting openness in the International Financial Institutions (IFIs), such as the World Bank, the IMF, the European Investment Bank and Regional Development Banks. Its current members include: Access to Information Network (ATIN) – Philippines; ARTICLE 19 - United Kingdom; Bank Information Center (BIC) – United States; Bretton Woods Project - United Kingdom; CEE Bankwatch Network – Poland; Freedominfo.org - United States; Institute for Democracy in South Africa (IDASA) - South Africa; Libertad de Información-México AC (LIMAC) – Mexico.

6. **International Freedom of Expression Exchange (IFEX):** IFEX is an international network of 67 media and human rights organisations, working together to defend free media and individual journalists around the world. ARTICLE 19 was one of its founding members and currently sits on IFEX board.

7. **International Mission:** The International Mission is a coalition of international organisations formed in the aftermath of the February 2005 coup in Nepal, to campaign for the protection of human rights and civil liberties in Nepal. Since then, the International Mission has worked in Sri Lanka, Maldives, Guatemala. It responds to requests for assistance from local organisations and works in partnership with a coalition of local NGOs and media organisations. The 11 members of the International Mission includes: ARTICLE 19 – United Kingdom; Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) – United States; International Federation of Journalists (IFI) – Bruxelles; International Media Support (IMS) – Denmark; International Press Institute (IPI) – Austria; Press Institute of India (PII) – India; Reporters sans Frontières (RSF) – France; South Asian Free Media Association (SAFMA) – Pakistan; United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters (AMARC) – Canada; World Association of Newspapers (WAN) – France.

8. **Mexico, “Coalition for Transparency” – Colectivo por la Transparencia:** It is a network of civil society organizations promoting in the Mexican society the right to access to information, transparency and accountability in the government. The richness of expertise and fields of work provides tot the Collective a solid ground for engaging into a productive dialogue with the relevant actors. The main areas of work are budgetary monitoring, promotion, training and legal review of access to information law. This group is currently the social watchdog on matters of access to information and transparency.

9. **Sudan, International Media Coalition:** ARTICLE 19 has set up a coalition of international organisations at a meeting in Khartoum in December 2005. Its role is to support the Sudanese members of the media/civil society roundtables set up through our Sudan project and assist with the implementation of freedom of expression activities in Sudan. Organisations include: ARTICLE 19; International Media Support (IMS) – Denmark; Norwegian Church Aid - Norway; Norwegian Peoples Aid – Norway; United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters (AMARC) – Canada.

10. **Tunisia:** Article 19 is an active member of the **Tunisia Monitoring Group (TMG),** that include as well: Canadian Journalists for Free Expression; Egyptian Organisation for Human Rights; Index on Censorship; International Federation of Journalists; International Federation of Library Association and Institutions; International Publishers’; Association Journalistes en Danger; Media Institute of Southern Africa; Norwegian PEN; Writers in
Prison Committee of International PEN; World Association of Newspapers; World Press Freedom Committee; World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters. TMG monitors the situation in Tunisia, including through regular missions, and campaigns actively against the continuing violations of human rights in the country.

11. **United Kingdom: Freedom of Expression and Literature Consortium:** The Consortium has nine members from the literature and free expression world. It aims at establishing an international centre for literature and freedom of expression. In 2005, we developed together a preliminary business case for the Centre and applied to the Arts Council of England for support. Following a very rigorous Heath, the Arts Council has granted the Consortium £75,000 towards further consultation and training activities for the nine members.

12. **United Kingdom: Freedom of Expression Panel (UK):** Set up by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, it includes ARTICLE 19, BBC, National Federation of Journalists, Index on Censorship, Oxford INSI, University – Programme on Comparative Media Law, Pen International. It allows organisations to bring freedom of expression issues to the attention of the FCO for their actions, and to work together on targeted activities and campaigning work.

13. **Others:** Through its partners, ARTICLE 19 is also a member of the following coalitions: Access to Information Network (ATIN), Philippines; Indonesian FOIA Coalition; Malaysian FOIA Coalition; Cambodian Freedom of Information Working Group.

**PARTNERS IN AFRICA**

- Media Institute of Southern Africa
- SACOD
- APC Africa
- Econews Africa
- Sudan Organisation Against Torture
- Fahamu
- Norwegian Peoples’ Aid
- African Communication Regulation Authorities Network (ACRAN)
- Institut PANOS Afrique de l'Ouest
- The Media Foundation for West Africa
- Media Rights Agenda
- Journaliste en Danger (JED)
- West African Journalists Association (WAJA)
- International Federation of Journalists Africa Office
- FAMEDEV - Inter Africa Network for Women, Media, Gender Equity and Development
- Institute for Human Rights and Development in Africa
- Association for Media Development in Southern Sudan (ADMISS)

**PARTNERS IN ASIA**

- Cambodia Human Rights and Development Association (ADHOC) – advocacy on FoI
- Cambodia: Alliance for Freedom of Expression (AFEX) – advocacy on FoI
- Cambodia: PACT – advocacy on FoI
- Hong Kong University – on-going project
- Indonesia: Aliansi Jurnalis Independen (AJI)
• **Indonesian Center for Environmental Law (ICEL)**
• Indonesia: Lembaga Studi Pers dan Pembagunan (LSPP)
• **Suara Rakyat Malaysia (SUARAM)**
• Malaysia: Centre for Independent Journalism – on-going project
• Malaysia **South Asia Forum for Human Rights (SAFHR)** – on-going project
• Nepal: Freedom Forum – on-going work
• Federation of Nepalese Journalists (FNJ) - on-going work
• Pakistan: **Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP)**
• Philippines: **Access to Information Network (ATIN)**
• Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism (PCIJ)
• Sri Lanka: **Centre for Policy Alternative (CPA)** - on-going work
• Thailand: **Asia Forum for Human Rights and Development (FORUM-ASIA)**
• Thailand: Centre for Popular Media Reform
• **Thailand Development Research Institute**
• SEAPA (Southeast Asia Press Alliance), Thailand - on-going work
• Commonwealth Human Rights Institute, India - on-going work

**PARTNERS IN EUROPE**

• Access-Info Moldova
• Access Info Europe
• **Advocacy Training and Resource Center (ATRC) – Kosovo**
• **Association for the Defence of Human Rights in Romania – the Helsinki Committee (APADOR-CH)**
• **Freedom of Information Centre** – Armenia
• **Journalists for Human Rights** – South Ossetia
• **Pilgrim** – Transdnestria
• **PRO MEDIA**
• Stepanakert Press Club - Nagorno-Karabakh.
• Sukhum Media Club - Abkhazia.
• **The Belarusian Association of Journalists (BAJ)**
• **The Center for Free Access to Information (CSpi) – Bosnia**
• **The Centre for Development and Democratisation of Institutions (CDDI)**
• **The Croatian Helsinki Committee for Human Rights (HC)**
• **The Independent Journalism Center (IJC) – Moldova**
• **The Institute of Mass Information (IMI)** -
• **The Kharkiv Group for Human Rights Protection (KHPG) – Ukraine**
• **The Lawyers Committee for Human Rights (YUCOM)** –
• **The Liberty Institute – Georgia**
• **The Mass Media Defence Center (MMDC) – Russia**
• **The Montenegrin Helsinki Committee for Human Rights (MHC)**
• **Yeni Nesil Union of Journalists – Azerbaijan**
• **Yerevan Press Club – Armenia**

**PARTNERS IN LATIN AMERICA**

• **Libertad de Información Mexico A.C. (LIMAC)** – Mexico – on-going project
• Modernmujer (Mexico) - on-going project
• Equidad de Genero Ciudadanía, Trabajo y Familia (Mexico) - on-going project
• Grupo de Información en Reproducción Elegida (Mexico) - on-going project
• Fundar Centro de Análisis e Investigación (Mexico) - on-going project
• Centro de Estudios de Derecho Ambiental (Mexico) - on-going project
• Cultura Ecológica (Mexico) - on-going project
• Academia Mexicana de Derechos Humanos (Mexico) - on-going project
• DECA Equipo Pueblo (Mexico) - on-going project
• Presencia Ciudadana (Mexico) - on-going project
• Alianza Cívica (Mexico) - on-going project
• Asociación por los Derechos Civiles (ADC) – Argentina - on-going project
• Associação Brasileira de Jornalismo Investigativo (ABRAJI) – Brazil - on-going project
• Institute Prensa y Sociedad (IPYS) – Peru - on-going project
• Flora Tristan – Peru - on-going project
• El Foro por la Libertad de Expresión del Paraguay

PARTNERS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

• IFEX – Tunisia (On-going project)
• Afaq Media Forum-Iraq (On-going project)
• Arabic Media Internet Network (AMIN), (On-going project)
• Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS) (On-going project)
• Iraqi Journalists Union (IJU) (On-going project)
• Jordan – Yahia Shukkeir (On-going project)
• The Iraqi Women’s League (On-going project)
• The Yemen Female Media Forum (YFMF) (On-going project)
• The Yemeni Journalists Syndicate (On-going project)
• A number of Iranian artists in exile

GLOBAL AND LEGAL PARTNERS
Our main global partners include:
• UNESCO
• Index on Censorship
• English Pen
• International Media Services (IMS)
• International Publishers’ Association
• International federation of Journalists
• Media Diversity Institute (MDI)
• Exiled Writers Ink (London-based)
• Pen International
• Reporters Sans Frontieres
• World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters (AMARC)

ARTICLE 19 has consultative or observer status with:
• ECOSOC
• The Council of Europe
• The African Commission on Human and People’s Rights.
We work with and through:

- The UN Human Rights Committee,
- The Inter-American Commission and Court of Human Rights and
- The African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights (ACHPR)
- The European Court of Human Rights

ARTICLE 19 has a long practice of close cooperation with all four special mandates on freedom of expression, including:

- ACHPR Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression (Africa)
- OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media (Europe)
- OAS Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression (Americas)
- UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Opinion and Expression (global)