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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Established in 1987, ARTICLE 19’s mission is “to promote, protect, develop and fulfill freedom of expression and the free flow of information and ideas in order to strengthen global social justice and empower people to make autonomous choices.”

The organization takes its name and mandate from Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states that: "Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information through any media and regardless of frontiers."

2007 saw some important achievements for ARTICLE 19 and its partners. Some of these have included:

Global transparency
ARTICLE 19’s work and strategy on global transparency is going from strength to strength. ARTICLE 19 has developed new methodologies and approaches to strengthening transparency, which are now being emulated the world over, such as making use of all existing access to information provisions in the absence of a law, and building broad-based and multi-stakeholders coalition for transparency. Our work to date has had great impact in terms of raising awareness and extending the traditional range of stakeholders to new actors.

- In 2007, ARTICLE 19 implemented its “empowerment through information” projects in Mexico, Brazil, Abkhazia, Malaysia, Ukraine, where we worked with a number of stakeholders (particularly women’s and environmental groups) to advocate for an access to information legislation and strengthen access to information on issues of central public interest.
- In Mexico, ARTICLE 19 has organised a series of working group meetings with members of private companies and made targeted information requests to government. A19 Mexico’s collaboration with a small, dedicated core of business people working in the area of public procurements has enabled us to bring the access to information discussion to the table in the private sector.
- The Global Transparency Initiative produced updated scorecards for a range of IFIs, to be used as an advocacy tool, and reports on openness at the IMF and EIB. A comparative testing project on openness of the ADB has also been ongoing in Asia, we have strengthened the outreach around the Transparency Charter, and organised a Charter workshop in October in Manila.

In 2007, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, in Claude Reyes vs. Chile, ruled that freedom of information is a basic human right implicit in the right to freedom of expression. This was a pioneering ruling which marks the first time an international tribunal has confirmed the existence of a full right of access to information held by government and other public bodies. ARTICLE 19 had co-authored the amicus brief submitted to the Court in 2006.

Legal Support
In 2007, ARTICLE 19 produced some 40 legal analyses of Freedom of Information (“FOI”) and Media laws, which have been used by local partners to advocate for legal reform. Particularly noteworthy are the following legal support and advocacy work:

- In Southern-Sudan, our on-going analysis and lobbying work has led to the Ministry of Information adopting nearly wholesale our draft laws on broadcasting and public service broadcasting, and putting them before parliament.
• ARTICLE 19 and the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) held a workshop for FOI stakeholders in Kenya. The workshop brought together 80 participants to discuss the plan for increased access to information and enactment of Kenyan FOI law. The discussions revealed a significant lack of information for Kenyans living in provinces and districts on the use of Constituency Development Fund (CDF).

• In May, the Bulgarian government introduced a number of negative proposals to amend their access to information legislation. Key among these were plans to require requesters to provide reasons for requests, to do away with the rule on severability (providing for partial access), to extend the time for responding to requests, and to allow for much high fees. ARTICLE 19 drafted a letter to MPs, and took the lead in getting 68 organisations from around the world to endorse it, protesting these changes, while AIP ensured that it was distributed to every MP. In the end, every single one of the changes we protested against was dropped.

• In the United Kingdom, We have been involved in a struggle to prevent negative amendments to the UK FOI law, including proposals to allow costs to be used to block requests and to exempt Parliament from the ambit of the Act. We have provided submissions on these proposals and also worked with opposition MPs to delay them. As a result, the proposals were eventually dropped.

• The Cayman Islands Government incorporated most of our suggestions for new freedom of information legislation in the bill that was eventually tabled in Parliament. We continue to work with the Cabinet Office there.

ARTICLE 19 has worked on a defamation case in the Philippines, and the Claude Reies case before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights – a very important case as this is the first time that a regional body recognized ARTICLE 19 also still has 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.

ARTICLE 19 has worked with the four special mandates on freedom of expression to develop a Joint Declaration on freedom of expression, in collaboration with a university in the Netherlands.

Towards the end of 2007, ARTICLE 19 launched a user-friendly interactive global mapping on criminal defamation, based on some 12 months of intense research by the regional programs and our partners.

Two days after the launch of its transparency report on Abkhazia, based on 2 years of research, ARTICLE 19 and a partner from Moldova were invited as guests to a 25 mns live talk show on the non-government station Abaza (the only one that exists in Abkhazia) which reaches a large number of viewers across Abkhazia. Also 2 days after the presentation of the report, both the Abkhazian President in a meeting with the heads of regional administrations, and the Vice-Speaker of Parliament in a separate public meeting, insisted that public institutions in Abkhazia have to make a greater effort to become more transparent and accountable to the public.

Media Pluralism and independence
ARTICLE 19’s work in Sudan has progressed very well: ARTICLE 19 launched the Khartoum Advocacy Centre Blog in November, held two meetings of the Media Taskforces, and produced a Code of Ethics for South Sudan print press approved by media stakeholders. ARTICLE 19 also undertook a fact-finding mission gathering information for the Sudan Media Assessment in June. As part of the North Caucasus media project, ARTICLE 19 has
developed a media monitoring methodology, selected monitors, and organised a seminar for lawyers, journalists and judges. ARTICLE 19 has also set up a Centre for Legal Defence of Journalists in Dagestan, and its lawyer has been representing journalists in court and providing legal consultation.

**Access to information: strengthening access to information by poor communities**

In 2007, ARTICLE 19 implemented its “empowerment through information” projects in Mexico, Brazil, Abkhazia, Malaysia, and Ukraine, working with a number of stakeholders (particularly women’s and environmental groups) to advocate for an access to information legislation and strengthen access to information on issues of central public interest. ARTICLE 19 undertook exploratory research in India on access to information and the Dhalit communities. Our project on rights to information (“RTI”) and sexual and reproductive health in Peru was very positively evaluated. ARTICLE 19 organised a two day assessment meeting in Argentina with its key partners there to review its approach to date. Altogether, these contributed to a refinement of its RTI methodology, thus assisting with strengthening its impact.

**Program Development: Middle East**

In Iraq and Yemen, ARTICLE 19 piloted new approach to building advocacy support for new legislation in the form of the Media Law Working Groups (MLWG), made up of a range of leading stakeholders, including officials, responsible for developing legislative proposals. ARTICLE 19 also conducted a training programme on media law for Iraqi public officials, and initiated work on women’s freedom of expression. ARTICLE 19 ran a gender-sensitive reporting training for Iraqi journalists, which received broad media coverage. The workshop consolidated the network of contacts within Iraq and triggered a campaign spearheaded by Alsabah-Aljadeed on Freedom of Expression and ARTICLE 19’s work in the region.

ARTICLE 19 has conducted a fact-finding mission in Yemen, on freedom of expression, to be released in December. ARTICLE 19 has issued around 15 Press Releases, most of them in English and Arabic, an article in the Guardian’s ‘Comment is Free’, and letters to officials urging them to live up to their country’s obligations as signatories to international conventions.

**Examples of ARTICLE 19 Impact**

- ARTICLE 19 Mexico has been described by the local media as “the reference point for issues regarding freedom of expression in the country and an important voice challenging repression, censorship and corruption in Mexican political and social life”.
- ARTICLE 19’s recommendations on access to information and freedom of information legislation were adopted in Cambodia, Macedonia, the state of Kelantan in Malaysia, Mongolia, and Nepal. ARTICLE 19’s recommendations on various media bills or practices on areas such as defamation were adopted or the object of large debates in Cambodia, Nepal, Moldova, Honk Kong, Kenya, Fiji, and South Sudan.
- In Mexico, the Ministry of Health has uploaded onto their website their quarterly reports on Reproductive Health and Gender Equality due to the number of information requests generated by an ARTICLE 19 working group.
- In South Sudan, ARTICLE 19 on-going legal support and capacity-building has led the Ministry of Information to adopt, nearly wholesale, ARTICLE 19 recommendations on broadcasting and public service broadcasting, and putting them before parliament.

• In South Africa, ARTICLE 19 took the first steps towards the setting up of an ARTICLE 19 Centre of Excellence on Media and Broadcasting Policy at the University of Witwatersrand. The Centre will aim to improve the quality and training of broadcasting in the continent.

Communication

• We have over the last three years multiplied our outputs (particularly statements/press releases). In 2007, ARTICLE 19 issued about 145 press releases and statements, against 62 in 2006 – an increase of 133% over 12 months.

• Our web users have increased by some 60% over the last three years.

• We have achieved increased media coverage for our work in countries all over the world. A few representative examples from among many include the UK (the Guardian, New Statesman, the BBC, Financial Times and The Times), Yemen (Yemeni Times, Yemen Observer and others), Austria, the US (International Herald Tribune), South Africa (Radio SW Africa), Kenya (The Nation) and Bangladesh (The Daily Star and several local language newspapers).

• In 2007, ARTICLE 19 co-produced “When Silence is Golden”, a documentary seeking to lift the silence on the activities of a Canadian gold mining company near a small town in Western Ghana.

Strengthening ARTICLE 19 capacities and relevance

ARTICLE 19 has taken important steps towards its deconcentration process. ARTICLE 19 was able to recruit 3 staff members in its Mexico and Brazil offices, and initiated begin the local registration of the organisation in Mexico, Brazil, and Senegal. In, A19 was officially registered in the second half of 2007. One ARTICLE 19 Program Officer relocated to Nairobi in May 2007 to accelerate the legal registration of the organization and other formalities, while implementing ongoing program of work. ARTICLE 19 was also able to recruit a new staff member based in Lebanon.

Staff increase

The number of staff has increased by some 90% since the end of 2004. At the beginning of 2005, ARTICLE 19 had 16.6 full-time equivalent posts, 3 of which were based in the regions (Peru, Mexico, Senegal). By February 2008, ARTICLE 19 had a total of 30 full-time equivalent staff, including 15 in field offices. In 2007, ARTICLE 19 appointed 9 new staff members, in London and in the regional offices.

Financial growth and stability

We have addressed the structural deficit of £140,000 and we have built sufficient reserves to finance the dilapidation (totalling £110,000). ARTICLE 19 also has more funds at its disposal now (in 2007, our income amounted to £2,309,000, some 1 million above the 2006 figure) Activities to strengthen the unrestricted support have been carried out, resulting in an increase in unrestricted reserves to support short term liquidity. A19 free reserves had increased considerably in comparison to the previous year, totaling GBP 110,000 although this is still below the level recommended by the Charity Commission.
1. Creating an enabling legal and policy environment for freedom of expression, including freedom of the Media

2007 saw a continuing high demand for ARTICLE 19’s legal services and support. ARTICLE 19 produced some 45 memoranda, statements and in-depth letters analysing and commenting on media laws and broader legislative developments. We achieved direct results — often in the form of amendments to the law, but often also through local media coverage of our work and the resulting awareness raising — in relation to a number of the analyses we published.

We have significantly increased the number of case summaries available online for the Virtual Handbook on Freedom of Expression, with a particular focus on the media. We have created a new page on the website which offers a comprehensive overview of the international treaties and other instruments relevant to freedom of expression, as well as of the different international enforcement mechanisms for the right.

We are active participants in a group involving Google and Yahoo as well as other human rights organisations that is drafting a charter for internet companies on freedom of expression and privacy.

ARTICLE 19 launched also a significant new publication, the Central Asian Pocketbook on Freedom of Expression, during a press conference at the Almaty Press Club in Kazakhstan. The Pocketbook is intended as an aid for anyone with an interest in promoting freedom of expression in Central Asia and beyond. Available in English and Russian, it provides a concise overview of international standards in the areas free speech advocates will need to be familiar with. The areas include regulation of the media, the rights of journalists, the law of defamation and privacy, national security and the right of access to information.

2. Campaigning globally against criminal defamation: Global Mapping of Defamation

In 2007, ARTICLE 19 continued to campaign globally against unduly harsh, outdated defamation laws, and the abuse of such laws, both criminal and civil, around the world (See Publications). We also undertook a massive research exercise to document the existence and impact of these laws globally. The undertaking provides a mapping of the existence and use of defamation laws globally, a strategic resource material to assist national and international organisations campaigning against the abuse of defamation laws. This research was implemented as part of a number of defamation activities undertaken by ARTICLE 19, including on-going monitoring abuse of defamation laws in selected countries, targeted advocacy around specific individual cases and country situations, and the publication of an ABC on defamation for use by civil society organisations. ARTICLE 19 also documented a number of cases in a detailed report that assessed the situation of civil and criminal defamation in Brazil. The report was presented to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights early 2008 and discussed in a public hearing with the participation of partners CEJIL and ABRAJI and representatives of the Brazilian state.

3. Supporting and strengthening free media and the free flow of information and ideas in Africa
ARTICLE 19 engaged in a number of activities in 2007 that contribute to strengthening the role of the media in Africa, including in the context of elections. ARTICLE 19 hosted the visit in London of the African Commission’s Special Rapporteur on Freedom of expression in Africa, Pansy Tlakula, and subsequently organised a seminar for the Electoral Commissioner’s Forum of the Southern African Development Community led by the ACHPR’s Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression in Africa in August. The seminar focused on the role of the media in elections and sought to strengthen the understanding of the Electoral Commission in the role of the media in fair and transparent elections.

In late March, as the Nigerian Presidential elections neared, ARTICLE 19 held a meeting of Nigerian media owners and top executives with its partner Media Rights Agenda (MRA). The aim of the meeting was to refocus the media on covering issues affecting the electorate rather than the personalities and disagreements between the President and Vice President. Relevant election and broadcast codes and the media code of ethics were reviewed and a series of recommendations were made on how to improve the media’s elections reporting.

ARTICLE 19 held a meeting in Johannesburg, South Africa, of African media academics from all corners of the continent. The meeting was a success in bringing together a Network of African Academics on Policy and Regulation for Media Pluralism and Diversity (NAPRMPD) to discuss the A19 Broadcasting Pluralism and Diversity: Training Manual for African Regulators and the setting up of an ARTICLE 19 Centre of Excellence on Media and Broadcasting Policy. NAPRMPDs aim to have the first centre at the University of Witwatersrand, and then a succession of centres throughout Africa in the future. This meeting was successful in kick-starting the process to the setting up of the centre, which aims to improve the quality and training of broadcasting in the continent.

In Kenya, ARTICLE 19 with ICJ held a workshop for members of the Kenyan Correspondents Association (KCA). The workshop aimed at contributing to open, free and fair electoral reporting. While they’re the backbone of news gathering for all news media organisations in Kenya, correspondents have been a neglected group for capacity development. The ARTICLE19/ICJ workshop provided KCA members with the opportunity to familiarise themselves with international standards on election coverage. During the two-day workshop, 100 correspondents were guided through a review of media relevant electoral laws and the Kenya Journalists code of ethics. The workshops enabled the Correspondents to better understand and hone their news judgment to focus on the public interest in a highly charged political environment. A direct outcome of the workshop was the publication of the Guidebook on Election Coverage for Media Correspondents in Kenya. The Guidebook was launched with widespread publicity and distributed ahead of the election. In addition to the KCA workshop, ARTICLE 19 supported three strategy sessions of the FOI Advocacy Network and guided the consolidation of two disparate FOI Bills into one proposal that went through three readings in Parliament.

In Sierra Leone, ARTICLE19 facilitated the reorganization of the Access to Information Network into a viable advocacy group. We provided comments and analysis on the draft law that is pending before the Sierra Leone Parliament. ARTICLE 19 also spoke on Freedom of Information as per international standards at a Freedom of Information conference held by the Commonwealth Human Rights Institute in Accra, Ghana. The conference was attended by FOI campaigners throughout Africa.

ARTICLE 19 with Media Foundation for West Africa (MFWA) led a special working group on Freedom of Expression and Right to Information at the 41st Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and People’s Rights in Accra, Ghana. The Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression attended the session. The Special Working Group produced an action plan for campaigning against abuse of journalists and impunity for
violation of media freedom. The action plan was presented to the Commissioners and has become part of regional partners’ programme activities.

ARTICLE 19 published three country briefing papers on the State of Freedom of Expression in Senegal, Mauritania and Niger, with a focus on media repression around elections.

Although there is visible progress in the legislative paths for protecting freedom of expression in Sudan, there are still numerous accounts of harassment and violent attacks on the media. Both local and foreign reporters based in Sudan are regularly arrested and detained, often interrogated for several hours. Those critical of the government are frequently charged for defamation or sedition. ARTICLE 19 is contributing to a drive by the international community to protect and promote the fundamental human right to freedom of expression in the country.

Together with its partners, Olof Palme International Centre and International Media Support (IMS), ARTICLE 19 collaborated on a Media Assessment programme in Sudan in April and June. Information collected from the mission formed the basis of understanding media capacity building needs to improve the quality of reporting and information access in Sudan. In keeping with this aim, a coalition of non-governmental organisations including the aforementioned and the Khartoum Centre for Human Rights and Environmental Development (KCHRED), Norwegian People’s Aid (NPA) and the Association for Media Development in South Sudan (AMDISS), met for the first time in Juba, Southern Sudan, in June 2007 to create a National Media Law Taskforce.

To strengthen lobbying of government officials and engagement of civil society in the Sudanese media legislative reform process, ARTICLE 19 assisted our partners KCHRED in establishing the Khartoum Advocacy Centre, and in Southern Sudan, our partners AMDISS in the set up of a Media Resource Centre. The resource centre will also aim to build the limited capacity of the Southern Sudanese media.

Four media laws have been presented to the Sudanese Parliament: the Press Law, the Broadcasting Bill, the Public Broadcasting Law and the Access to Information Law. These draft laws were drawn-up by the think tank Future Trends Foundation at the request of UNDP-Sudan. The draft laws have not yet been adopted by the National Sudanese Parliament and need much revision to them; and ARTICLE 19 legal analysis of the drafts showed them to be as repressive and curtailing of freedom of expression as the existing draconian media legislation in Sudan. ARTICLE 19 co-facilitated with KCHRED a National Roundtable in November 2007. The roundtable brought together members of the national media law task force who reviewed each of the draft FTF bills drawing from A19’s analysis.

ARTICLE 19 has also been engaging with local media, civil society and the Ministry of Information for Southern Sudan for the revision of the four Southern Sudan draft media bills (originally drafted by ARTICLE 19 in 2006), through a series of roundtable discussions. It is hoped these Bills passed into law in the summer of 2008. In June, a Southern Sudan Roundtable of editors from the region showed further progress toward higher standards of freedom of expression, and it culminated in the approval and signing of a Code of Ethics of the Print Press Media in Southern Sudan. Representatives from the print press in Southern Sudan, including a group of editors from newspapers such as the Sudan Mirror, the Sudan Tribune, and the South Sudan Post agreed to abide by the terms of the code. The terms include adhering to a self-regulatory regime, and promotion of accuracy and fairness. ARTICLE 19 sees this development as pivotal in paving the way for the abolition of the Press and Publications Act, 2004.

4. Monitoring and campaigning for freedom of expression, including freedom of the media in the CIS
Throughout 2007, ARTICLE 19 monitored the situation of the media in the Western CIS (Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova), Russia, Caucasus (Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan and conflict regions), Central Asia (Tajikistan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan) and Northern Caucasus. We issued protest letters, statements and press releases to respond to freedom of expression violations. We also reviewed the situation of criminal defamation in Russia. Our Russian partners have been collecting defamation cases from several Russian regions and analysing them; detailed analysis and recommendations will be produced by A19, as well as an overview of the issue of defamation in Russia. The report will be launched in December 2007.

5. Enhancing journalists’ free expression in North Caucasus

ARTICLE 19 set up a local NGO as a centre for legal defence of journalists in Dagestan, Russia - the Mass Media Defence Centre of the Republic of Dagestan. Its director has been representing journalists in court and providing legal consultation. With ARTICLE 19 support, the Centre organised in Makhachkala, Dagestan, a seminar on Russian media law and international standards of freedom of expression, for journalists, lawyers and judges, which included a discussion between the three groups on the implementation of measures to enhance freedom of expression in the region.

In September 2007, ARTICLE 19 began monitoring Russian media coverage of conflict and peace issues in the North Caucasus. The objective of the monitoring is to analyse Russian national and regional (Chechnya, North Ossetia and Dagestan) media’s performance and ability to satisfy the public’s right to know about conflict and peace issues in the North Caucasus from a plurality of sources and viewpoints; and to identify factors facilitating or hindering the media’s fulfilment of its role. The monitors were trained over the summer in using the methodology developed by ARTICLE 19. The findings of the monitoring will be included in a report on the interrelationship between freedom of expression and conflict in Russia, due to be published in mid 2008.

6. Creating an enabling environment for an independent media in Iraq and Yemen

In Iraq and Yemen, we piloted a new approach to building advocacy support for new legislation in the form of the Media Law Working Groups (MLWG), made up of a range of leading stakeholders, including officials, responsible for developing legislative proposals. We also conducted a training programme on media law for Iraqi public officials, and initiated work on women’s freedom of expression. We ran a gender-sensitive reporting training for Iraqi journalists, which received broad media coverage. The workshop consolidated the network of contacts within Iraq and triggered a campaign spearheaded by Alsabah-Aljadeed on Freedom of Expression and A19’s work in the region. We conducted a fact-finding mission in Yemen. This involved numerous consultation meetings with key Yemeni stakeholders including journalists, government officials, lawyers and activists. The mission culminated in the publication of the ARTICLE 19 report Yemen: Freedom of Expression in Peril. The report, released in January 2008, highlights worrying violations of freedom of expression and suggests a series of recommendations. The project also involved a training session for members of the Yemeni Journalists’ Syndicate on international standards of freedom of expression. In addition to introducing participants to international standards governing freedom of expression and information, the participants also discussed the importance of amending the disputed Press and Publications Law.

\[\text{In Arabic: } \text{http://www.article19.org/pdfs/publications/yemen-foe-report-arabic.pdf} \]

\[\text{In English: } \text{http://www.article19.org/pdfs/publications/yemen-foe-report.pdf} \]
ARTICLE 19 organized a workshop on FOI and investigative journalism and wrote a manual on the issue that has generated much interest within the region, and outside. The two-day workshop held in Jordan received excellent feedback from participants who agreed steps to initiate a national debate particularly amongst lawyers, civil society, Members of Parliament and the media for the adoption of access to information laws in Iraq. There was a clear interest in the topic as more than 70 journalists applied to partake in the training exercise.

Throughout the year, ARTICLE 19 has sought to respond to the innumerable violations to Freedom of Expression in the Middle East. More than 14 Press Releases have been issued most of them in both English and Arabic. MENA has also sent a number of letters to officials urging them to live up to their country’s obligations as signatories to international conventions. An article was published in the Guardian’s ‘Comment is Free’ site. We also published on the occasion of International Women’s Day a piece on ‘Pioneering Women’s Voices: A Celebration of Women’s Journalism Across the Globe.’

7. Supporting and strengthening free media and the free flow of information and ideas in America

In Mexico, ARTICLE 19, CENCOS, Fundacion Manual Buendia, and the SNRP launched the report “Counting the Cost” in both English and Spanish. 2006 has been the worst year on record for the media in Mexico. Federal and state authorities, violent groups, and drug cartels have colluded to make Mexican journalism one of the most dangerous media occupations in the world. In 2007 the context for the free and peaceful exercise of journalism did not improve.

ARTICLE 19’s Executive director carried out an official mission to Mexico, were she held meetings with different stakeholders, such as government officials, journalist, victims, community radio personnel. At the end of the mission, a statement was issued including recommendations for legislative changes, political will of the government and the need to strengthen civil society organizations.

ARTICLE 19, together with local partners, PRENDE and CENCOS, organized an International Seminar on Methodologies for Documenting cases of Violations to FOE. International partners such as CPJ and RSF attended the seminar.

Together with local partners PRENDE and CENCOS, ARTICLE 19, launched the “FOE observatory” - a network of local journalist around the country. The objective behind this network is to move towards implementing a preventive policy among journalist, such as trainings on security issues, and on FOE international principles.

A19 drafted more than 10 press releases on FOE issues, and several letters to public officials, judges, and congress members, both at the federal level and the local level, and carried out meetings with key stakeholders such as government officials and civil society organizations.

To increase international attention to the seriousness of the violence in Mexico, ARTICLE 19 organized and attended with local partners a hearing on the FOE situation in Mexico at the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights, where the government made several important commitments, such as to invite the OAS Special Reapportur on FOE to Mexico.

A19 also coordinated local NGOs lobby against the Federal Media Law (Televisa Law) in Mexico. Last year, Congress passed a Federal Media Law which in many of its article violated fundamental principles of the right of freedom of expression. The collective NGOs document described each violation and the source of law. Furthermore, meetings with the Supreme Court Judges and other actors working in favor of the controversy were held on different occasions. As a result of the pressure and the well founded arguments, the Supreme
Court ruled against the law passed by Congress and set different parameters positive for the exercise of FOE in Mexico.

In Brazil, ARTICLE 19 carried out a mission in August to assess the situation of freedom of expression in the country. Meetings were held with individual journalists and media organizations, government agents and civil society organizations. In an End of Mission Statement ARTICLE 19 identified areas of concern such as the lack of a proper legal framework to secure freedom of expression; the recurrence of threats to pluralism and diversity in the media; serious difficulties faced by community radios; abusive use of defamation lawsuits and instances of violence against journalists. The document also provided a number of recommendations and marked the commencement of ARTICLE 19’s work on a number of freedom of expression issues in the country.

ARTICLE 19 was involved throughout the second semester of 2007 in the discussions and campaign for the organization of a National Conference on Communications in Brazil. Similar conferences have been organized in other areas such as women’s issues and health and are very important fora for detailed discussions and preparation of proposals for policies and legislation review in respective areas, with the participation of private entities, civil society organizations and the government.

ARTICLE 19 also took part in the planning and launching of a campaign for transparency in the concession and renewal of broadcasting licenses. With this campaign civil society organizations aims to monitor the processes for granting of radio and television licenses in order to demand compliance with legal requirements and criteria. As part of this campaign, ARTICLE 19 – together with several local partners – prepared a civil lawsuit against three television channels that have not been complying with legal standards on the maximum time dedicated to commercial publicity in their daily program grid. We also presented an information request to the Ministry for Communications asking for information on licenses expiring during 2007 and 2008.

Together with a local NGO working on the right the education and the teacher’s union in the state of São Paulo, ARTICLE 19 prepared and presented a report on violations to freedom of expression and information of teachers and education professionals to the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education. The organizations documented a number of cases where teacher’s freedom of expression was violated based on a state legislation that determines that public employees shouldn’t make public critiques to the public system and consider confidential any information concerning their professional activities. The report was also handled to local public authorities and the effort now is to revoke those legal provisions.

8. Challenging the Zimbabwean Broadcasting Services Act and AIPPA before the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights

The project "Challenging the Zimbabwean Broadcasting Services Act and AIPPA before the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights" aims to challenge the ongoing existence of a state broadcasting monopoly in Zimbabwe. At a basic level, the purpose of the litigation is to obtain a ruling that this situation violates the right to freedom of expression of both prospective broadcasters in Zimbabwe, and of the population at large, which is denied access to diverse sources of information. More broadly, it is hoped that the Commission's decision will set a positive precedent which can influence developments in Africa and the wider world. Until 2000, private broadcasting was formally prohibited in Zimbabwe as a result of the State broadcasting monopoly granted to Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation. Upon an application by Capital Radio, a private corporation, the Supreme Court of Zimbabwe ruled on 22 September 2000 that the relevant legal provisions were unconstitutional and violated the right to freedom of expression. The Court expressly pronounced that Capital Radio was legally entitled to broadcast in Zimbabwe and, in accordance with the law, import any broadcasting
equipment into Zimbabwe to do so. Nevertheless, by enacting new legislation which ostensibly legalises private broadcasting, but imposes formidable procedural and financial obstacles, coupled with a campaign of harassment, the Zimbabwean government has to date prevented Capital Radio from broadcasting. Indeed, no non-governmental broadcasters have yet managed to obtain legal recognition.

Beyond obtaining a formal legal decision that Zimbabwe's government must end its broadcasting monopoly, it is hoped this project will result in recognition of a number of important legal principles in relation to broadcast regulation. These include that the broadcasting regime should be administered by an independent regulator whose goal is to promote pluralism, that licences should be awarded on the basis of objective criteria, that the licensing procedure should be fair, transparent and not unduly onerous, and so on. On many of these questions, no legal precedent exists yet at the international level.

ARTICLE 19 and its partners lodged the communication with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) in August 2005. Progress on the case has been slow, both due to the unresponsiveness of the Zimbabwean government and the protracted nature of ACHPR procedures in general. The Admissibility Brief, which aimed to establish the ACHPR’s authority to entertain the case, was filed in March 2006 and Zimbabwe finally made its submissions in reply in September. At the 40th Ordinary Session, Zimbabwe requested an adjournment on all of the communications filed against it and this was granted. In order to prevent further delays, ARTICLE 19 undertook a mission to the next Session of the ACHPR in May 2007, where we urged the ACHPR to proceed as soon as possible to a consideration of the merits of the case, since Zimbabwe has failed to challenge the substance of the Admissibility Brief. Unfortunately, as of today, the case has still not been declared admissible by the Commission.

II - STRENGTHEN OPEN GOVERNANCE GLOBALLY

In the field of freedom of information, 2007 saw a continuing high demand for ARTICLE 19 legal services and support, particularly in the form of legal analyses and legal advocacy. ARTICLE 19 also implemented its “empowerment through information” projects in Mexico, Brazil, Abkhazia, Malaysia, Ukraine, where we worked with a number of stakeholders (particularly women’s and environmental groups) to advocate for an access to information legislation and strengthen access to information on issues of central public interest. We undertook exploratory research in India on access to information and the Dhalit communities and in Ghana on access to information for the communities affected by the mining industry. Our project on RTI and sexual and reproductive health in Peru was very positively assessed by an independent evaluator. We organised a two day assessment meeting in Argentina with our key partners there to review our approach to RTI to date. Altogether, these contributed to a refinement of our RTI methodology, thus assisting with strengthening our impact. Overall, A19’s work and strategy has been particularly welcome and is showing great impact in terms of raising awareness and extending the traditional range of stakeholders to new actors.

1. Creating an enabling legal and policy environment for access to information

Particularly noteworthy are the following legal support and advocacy work:

- In Southern-Sudan, our on-going analysis and lobbying work has led to the Ministry of Information adopting nearly wholesale our draft laws on broadcasting and public service broadcasting, and putting them before parliament.
• ARTICLE 19 and the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) held a workshop for FOI stakeholders in Kenya. The workshop brought together 80 participants to discuss the plan for increased access to information and enactment of Kenyan FOI law. The discussions revealed a significant lack of information for Kenyans living in provinces and districts on the use of Constituency Development Fund (CDF).

• In May, the Bulgarian government introduced a number of negative proposals to amend their access to information legislation. Key among these were plans to require requesters to provide reasons for requests, to do away with the rule on severability (providing for partial access), to extend the time for responding to requests, and to allow for much high fees. ARTICLE 19 drafted a letter to MPs, and took the lead in getting 68 organisations from around the world to endorse it, protesting these changes, while AIP ensured that it was distributed to every MP. In the end, every single one of the changes we protested against was dropped.

• In the United Kingdom, We have been involved in a struggle to prevent negative amendments to the UK FOI law, including proposals to allow costs to be used to block requests and to exempt Parliament from the ambit of the Act. We have provided submissions on these proposals and also worked with opposition MPs to delay them. As a result, the proposals were eventually dropped.

• The Cayman Islands Government incorporated most of our suggestions for new freedom of information legislation in the bill that was eventually tabled in Parliament. We continue to work with the Cabinet Office there.

• In 2007, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, in Claude Reyes vs. Chile, ruled that freedom of information is a basic human right implicit in the right to freedom of expression. This was a pioneering ruling which marks the first time an international tribunal has confirmed the existence of a full right of access to information held by government and other public bodies. ARTICLE 19 had co-authored the amicus brief submitted to the Court in 2006.

2. Strengthening women’s access to public information in Abkhazia

In June 2007, ARTICLE 19 published “A Survey on Access to Information in Abkhazia and its Impact on People’s Lives”, the end product of a year long involvement in Abkhazia. Abkhazia broke away from Georgia in the early 1990s but has never been recognised internationally as an independent state. With a particular focus on women and gender issues, the report explores how isolation and the lack of access to information, particularly in rural areas, affects people’s ability to realise their social, economic, civil and political rights.

The report was launched in Abkhazia, in the new business centre in Sukhum/I, attended by approximately 30 journalists, NGO representatives and officials. The presentations of the report were followed by a lively discussion during which some officials reacted defensively to the criticism expressed in the report. However, despite the initial fears, the media and official reaction to the report was overwhelmingly positive and constructive. A link to the A19 website and the report appeared on the President’s website the day following its launch. The accompanying article on the President’s site repeated some of the recommendations made in the report.

While the government-owned TV (‘State TV’) initially did not attend the launch, the new (and only) non-government TV was there and reported along with some newspapers. Following the news broadcast on the non-government TV, the government TV then came to interview ARTICLE 19 delegation and shot one of our training events.

Two days after the launch, ARTICLE 19 and a partner from Moldova were invited as guests to a live talk show on the non-government station Abaza. The Russian language programme
lasted for 25 minutes. The moderator of the programme was excited by the report and very supportive of the criticism in it and the recommendations. This live show (the only one that exists in Abkhazia) reaches a large number of viewers across Abkhazia, and on the following days many people told us that they had listened to us on TV.

Also 2 days after the presentation of the report, both the President in a meeting with the heads of regional administrations, and the Vice-Speaker of Parliament in a separate public meeting, insisted that public institutions in Abkhazia have to make a greater effort to become more transparent and accountable to the public.

3. Ensuring environment sustainability by securing communities’ access to relevant environmental information in Ukraine and Malaysia

ARTICLE 19 has implemented its project on access to environmental information in Ukraine, highlighting the importance of the people’s right to know. ARTICLE 19’s findings to date demonstrate that there are no appropriate procedures for genuine public participation and very little awareness within public institutions of their obligations under both the Aarhus Convention and domestic law. Although there have been some examples of public consultation, in the majority of cases they bear no influence on decision-making processes, and are simply ‘symbolic’.

Chernobyl continues to receive international attention, as a disaster of such magnitude requires. However, there are other grave environmental hazards in Ukraine, such as pollution and toxic and radioactive waste stored in unsafe locations across Ukraine. Unfortunately, there is still little public discussion and even awareness of these and related environmental issues, such as the risks they may pose to people’s health. Not only are the authorities not sufficiently active, but the media also lacks the capacity to adequately inform people of environmental concerns. Moreover, covert – sometimes illegal – business deals involving toxic and radioactive waste go largely unnoticed. For instance, radioactive waste has been imported from ‘new EU countries’ to Ukraine, where EU regulations do not apply.

ARTICLE 19’s partner in this project, Ecopravo-Kyiv, as well as other Ukrainian environmental organisations, have engaged in strategic litigation, which has led to some positive judgements on freedom of information. We set up a telephone hotline that has provided legal advice and support to individuals, organisations and media outlets in over 160 cases of access to environmental information. Lawyers from our partner organisation assisted in the preparation of 5 legal cases and provided further legal representation in the court. 2 cases have already been successful. We organised a one-week study-visit of our Ukrainian partners to the UK in March 2007 where had joint meetings to learn about the practice in the field of access to environmental information in the UK. The information gathered during these meetings were as an international case study for a report launched early 2008.

Two and a half years ago, ARTICLE 19 hosted a key meeting in Malaysia, which aimed at motivating local groups to initiate a campaign to advocate for the adoption and proper implementation of access to information legislation. In 2007, following a concerted campaign by ARTICLE 19 and its key local partner in this work, the Center for Independent Journalism (CIJ), much has changed. An important initial goal of the campaign has been to raise awareness and build a coalition of groups advocating for the adoption of a right to information (RTI) legislation. Trainings, which have focused on how RTI is relevant to people’s everyday lives, have been accompanied by a mass awareness-raising campaign. Thousands of “right to know” leaflets in Chinese, English and Malay have been distributed and a number of public events, often attracting significant media attention, have been launched. Efforts have been made to involve MPs, and discussions and meetings with parliamentarians have led to a request from the backbenchers for more formal engagement.
A key focus of the campaign has been access to environmental information, which strikes a strong chord with many Malaysians. Home to one of just twelve areas of mega-biodiversity worldwide, Malaysia faces many challenges in preserving its environmental heritage. The environment has often been neglected in the push for economic growth and commercial development, and natural habitats are being destroyed at an alarming rate. Government investment in biotechnology is significant and yet information disclosure around the potentially detrimental health effects is scarce. Indeed, even the draft biotechnology bill is classified under the Official Secrets Act. In general, there is a paucity of information on issues of environmental concern and citizens often face considerable hurdles in their attempts to access information, often with limited success. To highlight the need for greater access to information, in particular in regarding the environment, ARTICLE 19 and CIJ have produced a report entitled *A Haze of Secrecy: Access to Information and the Environment in Malaysia*.

Efforts to raise awareness on RTI are bearing fruit: the media are increasingly covering the campaign and voicing their concerns over secrecy legislation such as the Official Secrets Act and the coalition is growing. One of the most major successes of the campaign has been the commitment by the state of Kelantan to adopt RTI legislation. A working group has been set up to prepare draft legislation and the coalition has played a leading role in this process. ARTICLE 19 has provided significant support to this process, which has taken our model law as a starting point, and comments have been provided by ARTICLE 19 throughout the process. The final draft itself is very progressive and, if adopted, would do much to advance the cause of RTI in Malaysia.

4. **Ensuring freedom of information in Brazil, Mexico, and Argentina**

*FoI legislations were still* not passed in Argentina and Brazil in 2007. The positive signs of 2004/2005 did not ultimately materialise into an actual legislation, demonstrating the rather unpredictable nature of the political and legislative process and commitment. National civil society in Argentina was hit the hardest, because of the huge investment it had made into advocating and lobbying for a law. Nevertheless, ARTICLE 19 and its partners were able to take advantage of the circumstances, particularly in Brazil. (Our involvement in Argentina stopped in March 2007.)

Like many countries in Latin America, the right to public information in Brazil is protected under its Constitution, promulgated in 1988. However, without specific right to know legislation, Brazilians face significant difficulties in attempting to access public information. Initiatives by public institutions to facilitate access to information are still very few and those which do exist are plagued by problems. These problems include: provision of information that is not updated or contextualised; creation of different public databases that do not “talk to each other”; provision of raw data with no analysis or explanations; and excessive use of technical language, rendering it virtually indecipherable to the general population. As most information is provided over the internet, the 20% of the population still without internet access face an additional barrier in accessing information.

The above problems were identified and highlighted by the members of 45 key Brazilian organisations that participated in the international meeting ‘*Access to information as an instrument for social change*’, organized by ARTICLE 19 in Sao Paulo in March, as part of the implementation of a three year project on access to information and poverty. The main goal of the event was to highlight, among civil society organisations, the importance of access to information as a working tool, share what has already been achieved in this area and agree possible actions to promote effective openness within Brazilian public institutions and bodies.

The group agreed on a number of methods to promote the right to public information in Brazil, which ARTICLE 19 is now implementing alongside its partners. Alongside this work,
ARTICLE 19 has also been supporting the work of the National Forum on Access to Information, which was influential in launching a Congressional Front for Access to Information within the Brazilian Congress. MPs participating in the Front have committed to championing the adoption of right to know legislation, especially by raising the debate within Congress around the draft bill that has been pending since 2003 in the Senate.

In Mexico ARTICLE 19 was able to reinforce its presence in Mexico during the second semester of 2007. The steady work around the health and private sectors enabled staff to create partnerships with several actors both within civil society and outside it with government officials, particularly the IFAI and INFO DF. The implementation of FOIA Monitoring related to public services also enabled ARTICLE 19 to approach local transparency commissions in local entities.

ARTICLE 19 was constantly involved in advocacy activities in 2007, both with the Working Group on health and with other partnerships in the country, mainly through the Transparency Collective (Colectivo por la Transparencia), assuring that access to information advances in the country.

In the first semester of 2007, while progress had been made with the implementation of the Federal legislation, in many states, access to information laws merely paid lip service to transparency. Local governments often do not have the infrastructure, human resources or capacity to adequately implement freedom of information legislation. Furthermore, the laws themselves are significantly different from state to state; some allow for public secrecy to continue, making a mockery of efforts to curb corruption, whilst others strive for greater openness, such as in Oaxaca. In response, ARTICLE 19 and AMARC held 5 workshops in community radios in Oaxaca, Veracruz and Chiapas, to teach and promote the right to access to information.

The bill put forth to the national congress in order to elevate freedom of information to the constitutional level, amending Article 6 for it to include the right to access publicly-held information and the obligation of government to pro-actively publish and release it was approved by the National Congress on July 20th, 2007. This amendment to Article 6 of the Constitution homogenised access to information laws at the local level and therefore established a higher standard of freedom of information across the board. ARTICLE 19 in coordination with Transparency Collective pushed forward this amendment. Also, ARTICLE 19 and Collective for Transparency in coordination with IFAI helped designing a legal framework presented to the national congress on October 24th in order to set high standards for transparency and access to information in the reforms of the local laws. This document also included opinions of the academic community and local commissions of transparency and is intended for the consideration of local congresses for the reforms of transparency laws.

Through their partnership with ARTICLE 19, organisations working on women’s human rights and sexual and reproductive rights have also been active in advocating for greater transparency and accountability within the country. However, there is a clear need for further training so that activists can appreciate the importance and centrality of access to information to their advocacy strategies. On this point, ARTICLE 19 in coordination with IFAI presented the results of the sexual and reproductive health project to over 30 small organizations in Foro IFAI Comunidades that took place on November 8th. ARTICLE 19 also promoted the use of access to information legislation as a vital component in the promotion and protection of human rights more generally in Mexico. Furthermore, ARTICLE 19 started to design a Campaign on Sexual and Reproductive Right and Access to information, following the legislative approval of the abortion law in Mexico City.

Through a series of working group meetings during 2007 with members of private companies in Mexico and the targeted release of information requests to government, ARTICLE 19
raised awareness of the right to information amongst private bodies by opening a new door for access to information usage. Our collaboration with a small, dedicated core of business people working in the area of public procurements has enabled us to bring the access to information discussion to the table in the private sector. This exercise has had a trickledown effect as some actors have increasingly used the access to information law to their benefit. The report produce highlights the monitoring exercise results pointing out some paradigmatic cases were the local government has not been very open.

ARTICLE 19 observed that the most sanctioned irregularity in public administration of Mexico City was the deficiency in service delivery for both 2005 and 2006. The effective provision of services is an important objective of public administration and is the backbone of the tax revenue. The provision of services is a necessary condition for the fulfilment of social, economic and cultural rights (SECR), and is an obligation placed upon the Mexican state as a signatory of the International Covenant of SECR. Likewise, the poor provision of services is often linked to corruption, as admitted by the General Audit Offices. It came to our attention that one of the most common problems related to public services provision is that the population cannot identify the responsibility of this delivery. Decentralization means that people do not know to what organ and/or public entity they should address their requests of public services provision. ARTICLE 19 believes it is an obligation of the local government to promote information that clarifies the institutions or entities that are responsible of certain services provision.

III – FORTIFY ARTICLE 19 DELIVERY, EFFECTIVENESS AND INFRASTRUCTURES

1. ARTICLE 19’s global presence
Strengthening ARTICLE 19 local presence at regional level and its relevance has been identified as one of our main strategic objectives under the current 5 year plan. In particular, ARTICLE 19 aims at having established a presence in all 5 regions by 2010, including through posting of staff, opening of local/regional offices, and/or institutionalised partnership (franchise) with local NGOs.

In 2007, A19 was able to recruit 3 staff members in its Mexico and Brazil offices, and begin the long process towards legally registering the organisation in Mexico, Brazil, Senegal and Kenya. A19 identified and recruited a board member for A19 Kenya. One of A19 Program Officer relocated to Nairobi in May, to accelerate the legal registration of the organization and other formalities, while implementing on-going program of work. A19 was also able to recruit a new staff member based in Lebanon. We have also recruited new staff members for our activities in Nepal and Bangladesh.

2. ARTICLE 19 international governance
In 2006, ARTICLE 19 undertook an in-depth review of its governance system to strengthen the organization effectiveness and accountability. Various options were discussed by the General Assembly in June 2006 and the decision was taken to set up an international board that will meet three times a year. In 2007, the following steps were taken:

- **Eastern Africa:** Recruitment of a new Kenyan board member, linked with the setting up of ARTICLE 19 Kenya – Lawrence Mute
- **Central America:** Confirmation of Jorge Iglesias as international Board member – also on the board of ARTICLE 19 Mexico
- **Asia:** Recruitment of an international board member from Asia – potential members have been identified.
MENA: Recruitment of an international board member postponed to 2008
In addition, the UK board of trustees also agree that additional UK based members needed to be recruited, including individuals with specific expertise (e.g. fund-raising) and one “celebrity”. This should be finalised by the beginning of 2008.

3. ARTICLE 19 infrastructure
ARTICLE 19 is seeking a measured growth of staff, predominately in country and regional offices. Growth is needed to ensure ARTICLE 19 has the minimum staff to be cost effective, has the necessary regional and thematic expertise and strengthens its impact.

The gradual increase in staff has already begun:
- At the beginning of 2005, ARTICLE 19 had 16.6 full-time equivalent posts, 3 of which based in the regions. By the end of 2006, this had grown to a total of 21.2 full time equivalent posts,
- By the end of 2007, ARTICLE 19 had a total of 26 full time equivalent posts, including staff. This is the equivalent of a % staff increase in two years.

From 2005 to the end of 2006, the following posts were created, many of which through earmarked funding: Mexico Program Coordinator, Mexico Program Officer, Brazil Program Officer, MENA Program Officer, a third Legal Officer.

In 2007, ARTICLE 19 recruited for the London office an accountant, an administrator, and a Middle East Program Officer. ARTICLE 19 also appointed two London-based posts, Senior Directors for Regions and Senior Director for Development, as part of a restructuring of the management team. Outside London, ARTICLE 19 has recruited four new program officers in Mexico, Brazil, Kenya/Sudan, and Nepal.

In addition to a sustainable growth of staff, we also undertook a salary review to ensure ARTICLE 19’s Terms and Conditions match those offered by similar NGOs within the sector. Following the review, salaries and pension contributions have been brought into line with the average level of those of its comparators. We also organised a restructuring of the senior management team, so as to create the best possible environment for the regionalisation process and the implementation of our strategic objectives and impact.

4. Communicate globally
The press coverage of ARTICLE 19 as a whole has substantially increased compared to previous years at the same period. However, this progress does not amount to a major leap and far more is required for ARTICLE 19 to raise the media profile of the issues and work it does. We have initiated a new approach to raise the profile of ARTICLE 19 work. We are issuing a communiqué for all our publications and legal analyses, and before or after the main meetings or seminars organised in our countries of operation. Almost immediately, this has proven to be an excellent idea: almost all press releases issued locally have been picked up by the media in the country or region, particularly in Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Brazil and Mexico. We have also strengthened our reactive work to particularly gross abuses of freedom of expression, especially in the Middle East and Mexico.

The website has been significantly updated including by uploading older archived information (in progress), updating all regional website pages, uploading new photos, etc. The overall number of browsers of our site has improved on 2006. Mailing list has grown considerably by an average rate of about 40 new sign ups per month.

We still face difficulties in getting international or Western media attention but there were some noticeable successes over the last year, such a being quoted in the IHT, FT, new Statesman, Monde Diplomatique, etc. (See Annex Four.)
Compared to the same period last year, we have multiplied our international press coverage by three, although our TV and radio coverage in February remained stable (Last year was exceptional because of the Danish cartoons crisis, followed shortly afterwards by the arrest of David Irving and the release of the Abu Graib pictures. Thankfully, no event of this nature has occurred in 2007).

However, it will be difficult to improve further our media work and profile, without a dedicated and professional press officer. Similarly, our reactive and advocacy work on the worse cases of abuses of freedom of expression is very time consuming and do require almost a dedicated staff person per program to be truly effective and consistent.

Main communication work:

- **Censorship and film making:** ARTICLE 19 organised a discussion panel on censorship and film making. Participants included Rex Bloomstein, Ziba Mir-Hosseini and Michael Chanan. We also co-sponsored *Water* by Deepa Mehta, screened as part of the Human Rights Watch film festival.

- **Website updated:** Website regional pages - home page, activities and partners - updated (with exception of Latin America still pending). 20th anniversary and general events page also launched. New photos researched and uploaded. Links across site updated.

- **March 8 publication:** 4 portraits of women’s journalists from South Sudan, Iraq, Malaysia and Guatemala


- **Mailing list:** A new mailing list was set up in November 2006. In order to comply with UK legislation, rather than adding people’s names to the list, we have asked all recipients to proactively sign up. In six months, nearly 1,000 subscribers have proactively signed up to receive around 3-5 updates per week. The list of subscribers is still growing by about 40 per month and decreasing by only approx 3 per month.

- **Mexico Launch:** We launch a report on the situation of FoE in Mexico in 2006 at the FPA, with video links with Mexico. It was our first attempt at video conferencing and it worked well. Unfortunately, the launch itself did not generate much interest amongst journalists in the UK. It did get good coverage in Mexico.

- **20th anniversary publication.** A designer, Lydia Thornley, has been contracted to do the design and has produced 4 design concepts for feedback. Country entries are being developed by programmes. Sarah Buchanan has been contracted as a consultant to take over the management of the project.

- **Launch of Brazilian access to information website portal:** ARTICLE 19 launched an interactive web portal on access to information in Brazil. The website was a result of a demand pointed by the participants of the international meeting ‘Access to information as an instrument for social change’. Through the website, civil society organisations and individuals are able to exchange information and coordinate efforts to promote the right to access public information in the country.

5. **Establish the Open Word Center**

2007 has been a positive and dynamic time for the establishment of the Fritt Ord Center.

In 2006, the Consortium learned that the Guardian newspaper was planning to sell their flagship exhibition space, the Guardian Newsroom, prior to their planned move in December 2008. Familiar with the building the Consortium made contact with the Guardian and on further inspection, convinced of its immense suitability as a home for the consortium’s centre, contacted Fritt Ord with a request that they visit the building with a view to investment.
Fritt Ord visited London in October and in light of the excellent suitability of the building, its first class condition, and its solid investment potential, Fritt Ord made the decision to proceed with inquiries with a view to making an offer.

After many difficult negotiations an agreement was reached on the sale of the building to Fritt Ord. This has taken place, alongside the establishment of a Fritt Ord UK charity.

In 2007, the Consortium explored various governance models for the Centre, maintenance plans, financial structuring and costs, income and revenue streams (including commercial sponsorship potential); culminating in a business plan for the commercial side of the building (venue rental, café, branded classes etc), and for the strategic plans, including marketing and branding, for the centre and its central mission.

We anticipate we will have a solid body of work, outlining optimum governance, financial and administrative structures and scope, branding and marketing approaches, assembled by the end of 2007 or early 2008, at which point all consortium members with a continuing interest in the centre will be requested to make a board level decision and commitment to centre based on that information and those terms. The schedule is that the Guardian will vacate the building around December 2008. Members of the Consortium should be able to move in some 6 months later.

There are, however, some remaining questions regarding the space and whether the building will be large enough to accommodate all members of the Consortium and/or all staff members. If this were to be the case, ARTICLE 19, as one of the largest organisation, may need to find other accommodation.

In addition to its involvement in the work of the Consortium, ARTICLE has worked very closely with its two key UK partners: Index on Censorship and English Pen, on a number of activities. Many focused on the UK, but we also worked together on lobbying activities regarding the situation of freedom of expression the Iran and in Egypt. In November 2007, Pen, Index and A19 are developing a new approach to monitor the situation in the UK by setting up a high level group of experts responsible for auditing the FoE impact of the government’s forthcoming laws, legal amendments, policies or practices.

IV – FINANCIAL REPORT 2007

Incoming resources for 2007 were £2,089,790, a 49% increase over 2006 income. This increase in income was made up equally of unrestricted and restricted funds.

Expenditure in 2007 was £1,817,795, a 19% increase over 2006 expenditure. This produced a 2007 surplus of £271,955 represented by £75,718 in unrestricted funds and £196,277 in restricted funds. The restricted fund surplus represents an under spend on some project in particular Sudan where the projects started late due to timing on the receipt of funds and some law programme activities that were moved to early 2008.

At the end of 2007 ARTICLE 19’s unrestricted reserves stood at £115,500 which is short of the Charity commission’s recommended reserve to cover three months operation of the charity.

The level of activity in 2007 increased for the Africa and Latin America Programme and remained more or less steady for the Europe, Asia and Law Programmes and fell slightly for
the Middle East Programme. Salary costs fell slightly, due to a reduction in the use of temporary staff. However, the salary costs are expected to rise in 2008 due to the recruitment of a number of new/vacant posts in 2008.

The ongoing dilapidations issue was settled in early 2008 and the settlement reflected in the 2007 financial results, there are therefore no significant ongoing claims against ARTICLE 19 in 2008.

Maintaining and strengthening core support remains a fund-raising priority and challenge for ARTICLE 19. Some of our fund-Raising successes in 2007 included:

- ARTICLE 19 received a general support grant from the Tide Foundation for USD 200,000 for the first time. ARTICLE 19 continued to receive core support from the Fritt Ord Foundation and Open Society Network Media Program.
- The independent evaluation commissioned by Swedish SIDA was completed in February 2007: it highlighted many positive aspects of ARTICLE 19 and recommended that SIDA continues funding ARTICLE 19.
- ARTICLE 19 organised its first donors’ meeting in November 2007 and hopes to hold similar such meetings in future.
- After about 15 months in existence, ARTICLE 19 Mexico has raised funds from the Ford Foundation and the FCO/UK embassy for two projects on the protection of journalists.
- We also received a 1 year grant from the FCO/GOF on freedom of expression in Nepal
- Dfid CSF: 3 year grant for GBP 450,000 for a Governance and Access to transparency project in Bangladesh. The project includes an ARTICLE 19 representative in Bangladesh.
- British Council: About £5,000 from the British Council to organise a study tour on access to information for a high level Chilean delegation made up of 2 MPs, national auditor, one journalist, lawyer, etc. Another similar-level grant from the BC to do a base line study of access to information in Brazil.
- The Hewlett FOundation granted ARTICLE 19 a 1 year Organisational Effectiveness Grant of USD 40,000 to assist us with some aspects of our regionalisation work, particularly the development of strategy plans for the regional offices.
- National Endowment for Democracy: one additional year of funding to facilitate media law reform efforts and to promote and build capacity for a more gender-sensitive media in Yemen.
- We secured a three-year grant for the Media Law Analysis Unit to run from 2007 through the end of 2009 at the level of GBP100,000/year.
ANNEX ONE – IMPACT SNAPSHOT

“Article19 is now the reference point for issues regarding freedom of expression in the country and an important voice challenging repression, censorship and corruption in Mexican political and social life.”

- **Abkhazia:** ARTICLE 19’s study and findings on access to information received an overwhelming positive and constructive reaction in the country from both the media and the authorities. A link to the A19 website and to the report appeared on the President’s website the day following its launch. The accompanying article on the President’s site repeated some of the recommendations made in the report. Some two days after the launch, both the President in a meeting with the heads of regional administrations, and the Vice-Speaker of Parliament in a separate public meeting, insisted that public institutions in Abkhazia have to make a greater effort to become more transparent and accountable to the public. The media reported on the report and the findings extensively and a 25 mns TV talk show was devoted to the issue.

- **Africa:** The Network of African Academics on Policy and Regulation for Media Pluralism and Diversity (NAPRMPD) has agreed to set up an ARTICLE 19 Centre of Excellence on Media and Broadcasting Policy at the University of Witwatersrand. The Center aims to improve the quality and training of broadcasting in the continent.

- **Brazil:** An ARTICLE 19 event on access to information and social change was very successful in opening the doors for strong and rapid networking and demonstrated how much interest there is on the topic and, as a consequence, how much space we have for working on it. Four regional roundtables and the launching of a webportal on access to information (in Portuguese and with local content) gave continuity to this work. A mission to assess the estate of freedom of expression in the country marked the commencement of our work on a number of FoE issues such as community radios, broadcasting licensing and defamation lawsuits against the media and human rights defenders.

- **Bulgaria:** We successfully organised an international lobby and worked with local partners for the repeal of a set of regressive amendments to the Bulgarian freedom of information law.

- **Cayman Islands:** The Government incorporated most of our suggestions for new freedom of information legislation in the bill that was eventually tabled in Parliament. We continue to work with the Cabinet Office there.

- **Ghana:** A19 will screen its first documentary (co-produced) in December 2007. *When Silence is Golden* follows the film's director in her quest to lift the silence on the gold mining activities of a Canadian mining company near a small town in Western Ghana. Through her journey, we meet the inhabitants of this town who, despite efforts by the government to silence them, cannot hide their anger and are eager to express their grievances. In seeking to explain this complex situation, the film comes face to face with the human rights implications of gold mining operations in Africa—intimidation by soldiers policing the towns to suppress growing tensions, severe contamination of water sources and the possible resettlement of these communities. This is a film about the struggles of ordinary people who want their voices to be heard; a portrait of a battle that many may consider as already lost.

- **Macedonia:** On January 25th, five years of joint campaigning by ARTICLE 19 and our partners 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.

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- **Nepal**: We had a substantial impact on the Right to Information Act, adopted in July 2007, due to our submission and close connections with the drafters. We have generally become a point of reference for freedom of expression expertise in the country.
- **Moldova**: Our recommendations for the improvement of a new Audiovisual Law in Moldova were nearly all adopted.
- **Kenya**: The Kenyan government revised its FOI policy in line with our comments; we remain heavily involved with various legislative initiatives in that country.
- **Sudan**: ARTICLE 19 and its partners established a *Khartoum Advocacy Centre Blog* to strengthen the free flow of information and views on media situation in Sudan and combat censorship.
- **Mexico**: The Ministry of Health has 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).
- **Mexico**: In June 2007, the Mexican Supreme Court of Justice ruled that amendments to the Law of Radio and Television, which had been enacted by the parliament violated the constitution and international human rights standards. ARTICLE 19, together with a group of NGOs had produced a working document outlining each violation of the law and organised a series of meetings with the Supreme Court Judges and other actors. The ruling is a clear victory for press freedom and paves the way to the reopening of the public debate on the topic of media diversity in Mexico.
- **North Caucasus**: ARTICLE 19 in conjunction with our Russian partners has provided assistance and advice in setting up a new organization, the Mass Media Defence Centre of the Republic of Dagestan (MMDC-RD), in Dagestan, North Caucasus which provides free legal consultation and representation to journalists and has so far been successful in reducing the financial compensation imposed on individual journalists in two recent cases. **MMDC-RD is the only FOE-focussed NGO in the North Caucasus.**
- **Southern-Sudan**: our analysis and lobbying work has led to the Ministry of Information adopting nearly wholesale our draft laws on broadcasting and public service broadcasting, and putting them before parliament.
- **Ukraine**: ARTICLE 19 and its partner set up a telephone hotline which has provided legal advice and support to individuals, organisations and media outlets in over 160 cases of access to environmental information. Lawyers from our partner organisation assisted in the preparation of 5 legal cases and provided further legal representation in the court. 2 cases have already been successful.
- **United Kingdom**: our analysis and lobbying work, together with partners, led to the scrapping of a draft freedom of information bill that would have removed parliament from the ambit of the existing Freedom of Information Act, while the Parliamentary Constitutional Affairs Committee adopted many of our concerns concerning a new costing regime for the existing Act.
- **At our urging**, the **United Nations Human Rights Committee** is currently questioning the extraordinarily high degree of media concentration in **Austria**.
- **Yemen**: We have piloted a completely new approach to building advocacy support for new legislation in the form of the Media Law Working Group (MLWG). It involves bringing together a range of leading stakeholders, including officials, to develop legislative proposals. We will review the approach later in the year or early next, once its strengths and weaknesses become more apparent.
ANNEX TWO – MAIN PUBLICATIONS

Reports:
- **Angola:** Report on the electoral and media laws of Angola, Aug 07
- **Global:** Report on access to information as an instrumental right for empowerment, July 07.
- **Iraq:** Gender-sensitive reporting, June 07
- **Iraq:** Free Speech in Iraq: New Developments Aug 07
- **Iraq:** A media policy for Iraq
- **Jordan:** Case study on woman Parliamentarian sentenced to 18 months Sept 07
- **Malaysia:** A Haze of Secrecy: Access to Information and the Environment, Feb 07
- **Mauritania:** ‘nous revenons de loins, mais restons vigilants’ (28 June)
- ‘Action Plan for the consolidation of Freedom of expression in Mauritania’ [English] (28 June)
- **MENA:** Manual on Freedom of Information and Investigative Journalism for Arab Journalists, Oct 07
- **MENA:** Art Censorship Presentation Nov 07
- **Mexico:** FOI and Health Guide published Feb. 07
- **Mexico:** Report on Aggressions to Journalist “Counting the Cost”, May 07
- **Mexico:** Mission Statement on FOE in the Country, June 07
- **Senegal:** Country Report on freedom of expression in Senegal, Jan 07
- **Sudan:** Submission to the United Nations Human Rights Committee ahead of the 4th periodic report on the implementation of the ICCPR, March 07
- **Sri Lanka:** A Struggle for Survival (International Press Freedom Mission Final Report), Feb 07;
- **FOI Campaigning training:** Fahamu & ARTICLE 19
- **Russia:** “The Cost of Reputation. Defamation Law and Practice in Russia” (Nov 07)
- **Latin America:** Online guide to the right to access to information in Latin America, May 07.
- **Tajikistan:** Report on the freedom of expression situation, July 2007.
- **United Kingdom:** A 10 Point Plan for Open Government in the United Kingdom, June 2007; Press release condemning the imprisonment of whistleblowers, David Keogh and Leo O’Conner, May 07; Submission on the Draft Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2007, March and June 07.
- **Brazil:** End of Mission Statement – The Situation of Freedom of Expression in Brazil, August 2007
- **Brazil:** Guide on Access to Information for Community Leaders and NGOs, March 2007

Legal Analysis
- **Israel:** Memorandum on the 1965 Broadcasting Authority Law, Feb 07
- **Chile:** Submission on the 5th Periodic Report to the UN HRC on FOE, March 07
- **Second Memorandum on the draft Law of Azerbaijan on Defamation, March 07**
- **Azerbaijan:** Second Memorandum on the draft Law of Azerbaijan on Defamation, March 07
- **Chile:** Submission on the 5th Periodic Report to the UN HRC on FOE, March 07
- **Israel:** Memorandum on the 1965 Broadcasting Authority Law, Feb 07
- **Malaysia:** A Haze of Secrecy: Access to Information and the Environment, Feb 07
Maldives: Joint letter to Minister of Information on lack of progress on schedule of democratic reforms with particular reference to FoE (4 Dec); Note on the Draft Broadcasting Bill of the Maldives, March 07

Moldova: Comment analysing the Audiovisual Code of Moldova, July 2007

Montenegro: Memorandum on the draft Constitution, May 07.

Nepal: Comment on the 2007 Interim Constitution, March 2007;

OAS: Memorandum on the Preliminary Draft Inter-American Convention Against Racism and all forms of Discrimination and Intolerance, April 07.

Sierra Leone: Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation among the members of the Freedom of Information Coalition of Sierra Leone, April 07.


Sudan: Signed statement on self-regulation in Southern Sudan and code of ethics of the print media, June 07; Comments on freedom of expression in Sudan, June 07; Memorandum on a set of four draft freedom of expression laws, July 07;

Thailand: Memorandum examining the draft Thai Public Service Broadcasting Service Agency Act, July 07;

Sudan: Submission to the United Nations Human Rights Committee ahead of the 4th periodic report on the implementation of the ICCPR, March 07

Tanzania draft Media Services Bill.

**Statements**

Armenia: Statement on the new provisions for the Appointment of Members of the National Commission on Television and Radio. 28 May 2007

Africa: FOE Special Working Group Recommendation - ‘Special Interest Group on the Right to Freedom of Expression’ (7 June)

Austria: Press release urging the UN Committee to address defamation and other freedom of expression concerns, March 07; Submission to the UN Human Rights Committee regarding freedom of expression in Austria, March 07.

Azerbaijan: Letter to the President of Azerbaijan concerning journalist Eynulla Fatullayev, May 07; Statement protesting the sentencing of journalists for incitement of religious hatred, May 07; Memorandum on draft defamation law, August 07; Letter to the Council of Europe highlighting freedom of expression concerns, September 07;

EU: Letter to German Justice Minister & EU Commissioner of Justice on new proposals to outlaw denial of holocaust / genocide across Europe, 12 Feb. 2007

Kenya, Freedom of Information Stakeholders workshop


Maldives: Joint letter to the Minister of Information and Arts urging action on media reform, May 07; Letter to the Minister of Culture and Arts outlining ARTICLE 19's concerns regarding the draft Broadcasting Bill, March 07; Note summarising ARTICLE 19's principal concerns with the Draft Broadcasting Bill of the Maldives, March 07.

Mexico: Letter to Mexican Presidential Candidates regarding FOI legislation; Campaign letter to Mr. of Education on the proposed banning of textbooks in secondary schools used for sex education; Letter to President Fox and IFAI Commissioners asking for a reinforced commitment to the independence and autonomy of the IFAI (published in Mexican newspaper); User-friendly guide to access to information, Feb 07; Guide to access to information and the private sector, Feb 07

• **OSCE:** Letter to Chairman of the OSCE (Spanish Foreign Minister) containing a briefing on key FOE concerns in Western Europe, 29 March 2007

• **Turkey:** Joint letter from ARTICLE 19, International PEN and the International Publishers Association (IPA) to the Turkish Prime Minister expressing concern about the impact of Article 301 of the Turkish Penal Code on freedom of expression.

• **Russia:** ARTICLE 19 Statement ‘Russian-Chechen Friendship Society under Threat’, 19 January 2007

• **Sri Lanka:** Joint letter to Donor Countries on Shortage of Printing Ink in advance of Donor Meeting, Jan 07; Newsprint Shortage Undermines Freedom of Expression Jan 07

• **Sudan:** Concerns on Respect for Freedom of Expression (15 June); [Statement] ‘Code of Ethics of the Print Media in Southern Sudan’ (29 June)

• **Tunisia:** IFEX-TMG joint letter to the incoming UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, Jan 07

• **Turkey:** Statement denouncing the killing of Turkish-Armenian Journalist Hrant Dink, Jan 07

• **Uzbekistan:** ARTICLE 19 Protest against Seven Year Sentence Handed Down on Uzbek Journalist Umida Niyazova, 2 May 2007

• **Brazil:** letter to members of the Parliament on community broadcasting legislation

**Press Releases:**

• **Afghanistan:** Presentation on the development of freedom of expression principles and the draft media law, March 07; Press release on freedom of expression principles and the draft media law, May 07.

• **Africa:** Press release calling for greater pluralism and diversity, April 07; ‘African NGO Forum Urges Adherence to Freedom of Expression Standards’ (7 June) ; ‘Academics Urge Greater Pluralism and Diversity in African Media’ (27 April); monthly Around Africa

• **Azerbaijan:** Journalist Imprisoned for Defamation. Press release expressing concern at the imprisonment of the Journalist Eynulla Fatullayev for Defamation. 3 May 2007; Media Repression Continues. Press release condemning the sentencing of journalists Rovshan Kebirli and Yashar Agazadeh to two and half years imprisonment for defaming Jalal Aliyev, President Ilham Aliyev’s uncle and an MP.28 May 2007

• **Austria:** ARTICLE 19 urges UN committee to address defamation laws and other free speech concerns in Austria, 22 March 2007

• **Americas:** Joint press release on broadcast regulation, July 07; Submission to the Inter-American Commission on International Standards on Broadcast Regulation, July 07.

• **Brazil:** we issued 19 international press releases and news bulletins to local partners, such as Press release announcing the release of a report on the seminar “Access to Information as a Tool for Social Change”, April 07; Press release protesting defamation sentencing of academic, June 07; Report - August 2007 fact-finding mission on the state of freedom of expression in Brazil, August 07.

• **Bulgaria:** Letter opposing the amendments to the Bulgarian Access to Public Information Act, May 07; Press release calling on members of the Bulgarian National Assembly not to pass proposed access to information amendments, May 07.

• **Burma:** Press release marking the renewal date of the house arrest of Aung San Suu Kyi, May 07; Press release marking the 62nd birthday Aung San Suu Kyi, June 07; Press release urging the international community to unite in taking action for freedom of expression in Burma, Sep 07.
- **Chile:** Legal analysis of the draft Chilean access to government held information bill, August 07; Joint Statement on the draft Chilean Access to Government-Held Information Bill, August 07.
- **China:** Press release protesting the conviction of Uighur activist Ablikim Abdiriyim, April 07; Note on the draft Measure for Public Environmental Participation, May 07.
- **Congo:** Press release on attempt by Congolese President’s son to remove incriminating documents from the public eye, Aug 07
- **Council of Europe:** Note discussing the need for a new mechanism to ensure respect for the right to freedom of expression, June 07; Second briefing on Access to Official Documents, June 2007.
- **European Union:** Press release calling on the EU to bring EU rules on access to information in line with international standards, July 2007; Response by ARTICLE 19 to the European Union's Green Paper on the review of Regulation 1049/2001, on public access to documents, July 07.
- **Egypt:** Press release calling for the acquittal of Al Jazeera journalist Howaida Taha, June 07.
- **Iran:** Joint Letter and Press release calling for the immediate release of three U.S.-Iranian citizens charged with espionage, June 07; Joint press release welcoming the release on conditional bail of US-Iranian citizens, August 07; Joint open letter to the Iranian Ambassador to the UK calling for the immediate release of three US-Iranian citizens held on charges of espionage, June 07.
- **Iraq:** Press release - media regulatory policy in Iraq, March 07; ARTICLE 19’s commitment to securing freedom of expression in Iraq, May 07; Murder of ARTICLE 19's colleague and friend Sahar Alhaydarey, June 07; Statement on the necessity of securing rule of law and security in Iraq, June 07; Gender-sensitive reporting and the Media in Iraq, June 07; Free Speech in Iraq: Progresses and Concerns in 2006 and 2007, August 07;
- **Jordan:** Press release on prior censorship, May 07; Letter to the King of Jordan concerning the amendments made to the draft Access to Information law, April 07;
- **Kenya:** Press release on difficulties of accessing development funds, April 07.
- **Kyrgyzstan:** Statement on initiatives to enhance freedom of expression in Kyrgyzstan, April 07.
- **Lebanon:** Condemning the assassination of MP Antoine Ghanem Sept 07; Press release on A19’s participation in Symposium on Art and censorship in Beirut Nov 07;
- **Mexico:** Press release condemning the assassination of Mexican journalist, Amado Ramirez Dillanes, April 07; Counting the Costs: Report assessing the attacks on journalists in Mexico in 2006, May 07; Press release expressing concern about the kidnapping of journalist Saúl Martínez Ortega, April 07; Press release condemning the attack against Mexican journalist Misael Sánchez, June 07; Press release welcoming the Supreme Court's decision to strike down the proposed amendments to the TV and Radio law enacted by parliament, June 07;
- **Mauritania:** ARTICLE 19 support of the smooth running of the Mauritania electoral campaign (English and French)
- **MENA:** Beirut Conference-Censoring Art and Artists- Nov 07
- **Nigeria,** announcement of election media advisory urging greater issues coverage.
- **Sierra Leone** FOI Coalition members renew their commitment to the campaign.
- Condemnation of the sentencing of newspaper Walf Grand-Place and two of its journalists for criminal defamation in Senegal. (English and French)
- **Palestine:** Press release welcoming the release of BBC Journalist Alan Johnston, July 07.
• **Russia:** Press release - successful outcome of the Defamation Case against Russia held in Strasbourg, August 07; Proposed amendments to extremism legislation, July 2007; Deteriorating freedom of expression situation in Russia, July 2007; Harassment and seizure of computers of the Nizhny Novgorod Foundation to Support Tolerance, August 07; New measures taken against human rights activist Stanislav Dmitrievsky, August 07.

• **‘South Sudan:** Journalists Agree Code of Ethics’ (2 July)

• **Sudan:** Press release outlining the progress of the media law task force first session, June 07; Press release: code of ethics for the media in Southern Sudan, July 2007; Press release calling for the improvement of four draft media laws in Sudan, July 07; Sudan: Media Law task Force Convenes for First Session’ (27 June)

• **Sri Lanka:** Press release condemning the government's blocking of the news website TamilNet, June 07.

• **Thailand:** Press release announcing the release of an analysis of the draft Thai Public Service Broadcasting Agency Act, July 07; Press release urging reform of the draft Computer-Related Offences Commission Act, April 07; Press release urging reconsideration of the adoption of the Computer Related Offences Act, May 07.

• **Sierra Leone:** FOI Coalition members renew their commitment to the campaign.

• **Somalia:** ‘Draft Media Law Somalia must be revise to meet international standards’ (10 May)

• **Turkey:** **Abolition of Penal Code a Must.** Press release detailing ARTICLE 19's joint letter to the Turkish authorities calling for an abolition of Article 301 of the penal code. The letter was submitted in support of the European Commission's recent demand for Turkey to meet its commitments specifically by amending or repealing article 301. 23 Nov 2006

• **‘Zimbabwe:** ARTICLE 19 and Index on Censorship condemn recent attacks on Zimbabwe law Society members’ (17 May) - Joint PR with Index

• **Zimbabwe:** Mtetwa Testimony & Lawyer’s Petition (17 May)


• **‘Zimbabwean Government Plans to Revoke all NGO Licences’ (26 April)**

• **United Kingdom:** A 10 Point Plan for Open Government in the United Kingdom, June 2007; Press release condemning the imprisonment of whistleblowers, David Keogh and Leo O’Conner, May 07; Submission on the Draft Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2007, March and June 07;

• **Uruguay:** Press release calling on the Senate to confirm the adoption of the Community Broadcasting Bill, August 07.

• **Uzbekistan:** Press releases: imprisonment and sentencing of Uzbek journalist and human rights defender Umida Niyazova, May 07;

• **Western Europe:** Letter to the OSCE expressing concern over risks to freedom of expression in Western Europe, April 07.

• **Yemen:** Final statement from the first meeting of the Media Law Working Group, March 07; Press release condemning the arrest of a Abdul Karim al-Khaiwani without charge July 07; Press release condemning the abduction and physical assault of journalist Abdul Karim al-Khaiwani, August 07; Press release announcing the second meeting of the Media Law Working Group, August 07.

• **Zimbabwe:** Press release condemning the Zimbabwean government’s decision to cancel all registration certificates of non-governmental organisations (NGOs), April 07; Testimony of the Law Society on attacks outside the Zimbabwean High Court, May 07; Joint thematic report on human rights violations in Zimbabwe between 1996 and 2006, May 07; Joint press release condemning the appalling attacks the Zimbabwean Law Society, May 07;
Open Word Center – Joint Outputs

The list of joint outputs in 2007 included the following:

**Kingdom: "Sea Change" From UK Prime Minister Applauded**
Joint press release welcoming the UK Prime Minister’s commitment, set out in yesterday’s speech on liberty, to implement many of the proposals set out in our joint ten-point plan for an open government, originally published in June 2007. **October 2007**

**Tunisia: Freedom of Expression Still Under Siege Over One Year After WSIS**
Joint action by all 16 members of the IFEX-TMG (International Freedom of Expression - Tunisia Monitoring Group), appealing to incoming UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, to remind the Government of Tunisia of its international obligations. **22 Jan 2007**

**Tunisia: Attempts by Authorities to Silence Dissenting Voices**
Press release condemning the court decision to expel the officially acknowledged opposition party of the Tunisian ruling party; the Tunisian Progressive Democratic Party (PDP), and the PDP’s official newspaper Al-Mawkef from their premises. **3 Oct 2007**

**Egypt: Eight Further Charges Against Editor**
Press release providing an update of the Issa Ibrahim case. A further eight charges against Egyptian editor, Issa Ibrahim, were announced in court. The case has now been adjourned for three weeks. **2 Oct 2007**

**Egypt: Press Freedom Deteriorates**
Joint press release condemning the recent spate of prosecutions of independent media professionals in Egypt and call upon the Egyptian government to urgently improve protection of freedom of the press. **27 Sep 2007**

**Iran: Release of Ali Shakeri welcomed**
ARTICLE 19, Index on Censorship and English PEN welcome the release of Ali Shakeri from Evin Prison, which marks the end of the prolonged detention of 3 Iranian-American citizens without formal charge. **26 Sep 2007**

**Release of Dr. Kian Tajbakhsh welcomed but release of Mr Ali Shakeri is urgently required**
Joint press release welcoming the release of Dr. Kian Tajbakhsh and calling for the immediate release of Mr Ali Shakeri. **21 Sep 2007**

**Iran: Release of Scholar Welcomed but Other Releases Still Urged**
Joint press release welcoming the release on conditional bail of Dr Haleh Esfandiari and calling for the immediate release of Dr. Kian Tajbakhsh and Mr Ali Shakeri. **24 Aug 2007**

**United Kingdom: Pressure on Brown to Defend Threatened Rights**
ARTICLE 19, English PEN and Index on Censorship challenge the incoming Prime Minister, Gordon Brown, to put flesh on the bones of his commitment to open government. **27 Jun 2007**

**United Kingdom: 10-Point Plan for an Open Government**
A 10 Point Plan for Open Government in the United Kingdom, issued by ARTICLE 19, English PEN and Index on Censorship. **27 Jun 2007**
Iran: Release of US-Iranian Citizens Urged
ARTICLE 19 has collaborated in a joint open letter to the Iranian Ambassador to the UK calling for the immediate release of three US-Iranian citizens who are being held on charges of espionage. 19 Jun 2007

Zimbabwe: Recent Attacks on Law Society Members
Joint press release by ARTICLE 19 and Index on Censorship condemning the appalling attacks on several members of the Zimbabwean Law Society on Tuesday 8th May. 17 May 2007

United Kingdom: Proposed Amendments to FoI Act an Attack on Freedom of Expression
Joint press release expressing extreme concern about MP David Maclean's bill to exempt Parliament and MPs’ correspondence from the Freedom of Information Act. 25 Jan 2007
ANNEX THREE
ARTICLE 19 MAIN SUPPORTERS 2007 (gbp)

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<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
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<td>Others</td>
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ANNEX FOUR
ARTICLE 19 staff members (as of December 2007)

Full time staff:
1. Dr. Agnes Callamard Executive Director
2. Steven Osieyo Accountant
3. Mark Wigginton Administrator
4. Toby Mendel Senior Director, Law, Policy and Trading (Canada)
5. Daniel Simons Legal Officer
6. John Barker Senior Director, Operations
7. Fatou Jagne-Senghore Africa Programme Officer (Senegal)
8. Cece Fadope Africa programme Officer
9. Roxanne Abdulali Africa programme Officer
10. Catrina Pickering Asia and Communication Program Officer
11. Luitgard Hammerer Regional Representative, Europe (Austria)
12. Federica Prina Senior Programme Officer, Europe
13. Anoush Begoyan Europe Programme Officer
14. Hoda Rouhana Middle East Program Officer
15. Sarah Richani Middle East Program Officer (Lebanon)
16. Dario Ramirez A19 Mexico, Director (Mexico)
17. Ricardo Gonzales A19 Mexico, Program Officer (Mexico)
18. Cynthia Cardenas A19 Mexico, Program Officer (Mexico)
19. Brenda Navarro A19 Mexico, Program Officer (Mexico)
20. Paula Martins A19 Brazil, Coordinator (Brazil)
21. Mila Molina A19 Brazil, Program Assistant (Brazil)
22. Santosh Sigdel A19 Nepal Representative (Nepal)
23. John Gachie Sudan Program Officer (Nairobi)
24. Jahanur Awal A19 Bangladesh, Admin and Finance Officer

60% staff and less:
25. Dini Widiastuti Asia Programme Officer
26. Jade McLeod Financial Assistant
27. Jasmila Venturini A19 Brazil, Web/Advocacy Program

New staff members to begin in 2008:
28. Paul English Senior Director, Regions
29. Jasmine Sky O’Connor Senior Director, Development
30. Sejal Parmar Senior Legal Officer
31. Boyko Boev Legal Officer
32. Thamina Rahman A19 Bangladesh, Country Director (Bangladesh)
ANNEX FIVE
ARTICLE 19 IN THE MEDIA

We have achieved increased media coverage for our work in countries all over the world. A few representative examples from among many include the UK (the Guardian, New Statesman, the BBC, Financial Times and The Times), Yemen (Yemeni Times, Yemen Observer and others), Austria, the US (International Herald Tribune), South Africa (Radio SW Africa), Kenya (The Nation) and Bangladesh (The Daily Star and several local language newspapers).

Please see attached document – Excel Sheet

ARTICLE 19 PRESS COVERAGE
Offline copies and scan-ins saved in H:\Communications\Press Coverage\Articles\n
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<td>27/02/2007</td>
<td>Implementing Freedom of Expression</td>
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<td>For Yemen to be a true democracy, it must promote better freedom of expression</td>
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<td>NEPAL: Intl media mission welcomes endorsement</td>
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<td>Workshop addresses freedom of information</td>
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Ongoing Protests Signal a Time to Unite

Russia: Extremism Legislation Abused to Silence

Burma: Ongoing Protests Signal Time to Unite

Yemen: press freedom threatened in name

Call for the Abolition of article 301

Media Freedoms in the Arab World -

Joint Call for Abolition of Article 301

ARTICLE 19 and International PEN: Scrap 301

Press Freedom Legislation Must be Amended

Brazil Senate’s Secret Session Called

Religionsfrihed overtrumfer ytringsfrihed

International Community Must Act on Burma

Andrei Piontkovsky and the Doppelgänger Theory

Journalists targeted

Egypt: Press Freedom Deteriorates

India is hypocritical

Weblogs Undermine Military Regime

Day of Action for the People of Burma

Burma: Day of Action

Make Public Evidence of All Corruption Cases

Article 19: UN Human Rights Council Must Act

ARTICLE 19 Highlights Developments Worldwide

Author under pressure to name Irish PM

Join the Burma March

Group Demands Transparency from Brazil When

Group Demands Transparency from Brazil When

Vítimas do vácuo

Vítimas do vácuo

Vítimas do vácuo

Vítimas do vácuo

Brasil é recordista de ações contra jornalistas

Jornalistas são levados à Justiça com mais frequência

Ações contra a imprensa

Brasil é campeão em número de ações contra

O relatório da Article 19 e a grande mídia brasileira

International Reaction to Agos Sentence

O relatório da Article 19 e a grande mídia brasileira

Fol and Investigative Journalism in Arab World

Manual on Fol and Investigative Journalism

Manual for Arab Journalists on Freedom of

Information

Manual on Fol and Investigative Journalism

Arab Manual on Freedom of Information and

A19 issues investigative Journalism manual in

Arabic

A imprensa é culpada? - Entrevista com Paula

Martins

International Human Rights Organisations demand

Burma Media Association

Asia Pacific People's

Press Emblem Campaign

Burma UK Campaign

Armies of Liberation

Press Emblem Campaign

Yemen Times

Bianet

Minivan News

Brazzil Magazine

Christian Science Monitor

SEAPA

Robert Amsterdam

the Jawa Report

Daily News and Analysis

NRC handelsblad

Cencos

Ghost Line

Daily Star

Burma UK Campaign

Scoop

Guardian

Consultor Jurídico

O Estado de S. Paulo

Observatório da

Imprensa

O Estado de S. Paulo

Observatório da

Imprensa

Bianet

Observatório do Direito à

Comunicação

Stream Time

Shuraka

EuroMedRights

Arabic News

Arab Press Network

International Journalist's

Network

Revista Brasilia em Dia

AFAQ
ARTICLE 19 and Index on Censorship applaud Pakistan Silences Media in Emergency

Pakistan Reaches Crisis Point

A Legacy of Free Media is Risked by Pakistan

People Profile: Straight Shooter Dario Ramirez

Journalists and human rights defenders repeatedly

ARTICLE 19 supports collective appeal for stronger Media for freedom

The Mechanics of Censorship

One man's filth is another's tour de force

ARTICLE 19 report examines China's hold on press

China: Choking Press Freedom

The Legal Framework Of China's Stranglehold

Brazil Uses Courts to Reimpose Prior Censorship

ARTICLE 19 Submission on Freedom of Expression

Sudanese media a victim of years of conflict, says report

Sudanese media a victim of years of conflict, says report

A Few Pointers to Keep Brazil's New Public TV In line

A Few Pointers to Keep Brazil's New Public TV In line

ARTICLE 19 Issues Investigative Journalism Manual

BBC Radio Five

BBC Asian Network

BBC West Midlands

BBC World French Service

BBC World Service (7.30)

Colourful Radio

Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation

BBC Radio Five

BBC Asian Network

BBC West Midlands

BBC World French Service

BBC World Service (7.30)

Colourful Radio

Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation

On the Mauritania FoE report

Alan Johnston

On J K Rowling libel case

Sudan Media Assessment

9'o clock news

Alhiwar

Alhiwar (Satelite Arab)
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