

THE CARTER CENTER NEWS

FALL 2004

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THE
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Center Calls for Reconciliation Between Chavez and Opposition

Venezuela President Hugo Chavez won an August recall referendum to complete his term, but reconciling his supporters and the opposition remains a goal after two years of contentious relations mediated by The Carter Center and the Organization of American States.

"The referendum allowed voters to decide on the continued mandate of the president, but it could not resolve the

recall vote of a president—culminated a process begun in November 2003 when Chavez's opponents began collecting a new set of signatures to petition for the recall vote. In all, the Center and the OAS observed, over a period of 10 months, the signature collections, the National Electoral Council's signature validation process, the reparos or signature corrections, and the referendum.



An Aug. 12 opposition march representing the "Si" vote passes by the Sabana Grande neighborhood of Caracas on the Francisco Fajardo highway.

underlying disputes," said Dr. Jennifer McCoy, director of the Carter Center's Americas Program. "Now the government and opposition need to address how to work together for the benefit of Venezuela.

"The government should reach out to its opponents to create a national vision for the country and ensure all Venezuelans feel represented. More immediately, both sides must work toward restoring public confidence and trust in the electoral process."

The referendum—the world's first

"Though several post-referendum checks by the Center and the OAS verified that the vote reflected the will of the people, the opposition's claims of fraud, intimidating tactics by government supporters, and opaque decisions by the National Electoral Council (CNE) eroded faith in the recall outcome," Dr. McCoy said.

As the polls closed on Aug. 15, Carter Center and OAS observers conducted a "quick count" of randomly selected polling sites to verify that the onsite vote tallies they saw matched those transmitted from the electronic voting machines to CNE headquarters. The quick count matched the CNE's results, in which almost 60 percent of voters cast their ballots to keep

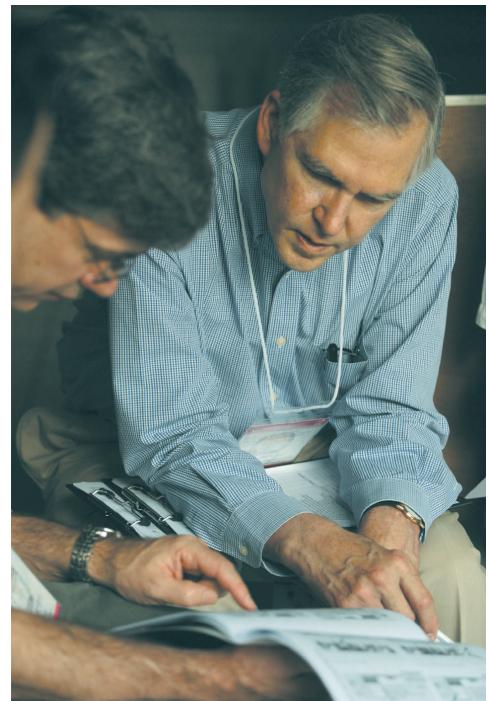
continued on page 2

Medical Kits Head to Sudan,
Ghana, and Nigeria to Help
Stop Guinea Worm Now

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Neutrality Fosters Trust

Parties in conflict turn to The Carter Center to help them resolve their differences because they trust us to be neutral, whether negotiating a peace agreement, observing elections, or working to build coalitions to conquer disease in fractious societies.



continued from cover page

Venezuela, cont.

Chavez in power, and showed no manipulation of the data transmission or tabulation. A third check, a recount of a sample of the paper ballots that print after each vote, also did not show any fraud.

Before observers, including former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, arrived for the referendum, Center staff in Caracas observed trial runs of the electronic voting machines conducted by the CNE and met with the political forces, technical directors of all components of the automated voting processes, the media, the armed forces, and other key actors.

After the referendum result was announced overnight by the CNE, President Carter and OAS Secretary

We are careful not to take sides but aim for a workable solution that meets the essential needs of all actors and advances universal principles of justice, peace, and democratic governance.

Our staff labors scrupulously to understand the perspectives of opposing sides and their often complex interrelationships, without judging but urging inclusion and broad-based dialogue necessary for long-lasting consensus.

These principles undergird the success of our election observations, 52 worldwide to date. To be involved, we must be welcomed by the major political parties and the national electoral authority, be assured that the electoral law and procedures provide for an open and fair process, and be convinced that our presence increases the prospects for a successful election. Carefully studying the mechanics of the process helps us to detect

Carter Center Executive Director John Hardman and Jakarta Field Office Director Eric Bjornlund look over details in a voting procedures manual for the July 5 Indonesian presidential elections.

General César Gaviria held a press conference to announce their findings and to urge a peaceful acceptance of the results by both sides. They also called for reconciliation talks between the government and opposition.

"There needs to be good-faith acceptance of the results by both winners and losers and some degree of reconciliation. When distrust or disharmony is deep, as it is in Venezuela, it is necessary to establish a continuing dialogue between the government and the opposition leaders," said President Carter.

Away from the politics in the capital city, in small communities across

fraudulent practices or intimidation that might subvert the free will of citizens.

Amid a highly competitive and intense campaign, the Carter Center's calming presence helped Indonesians this season peacefully hold their first direct election for president. Meanwhile, Venezuelans, who relied on Carter Center observers during elections in 1998 and 2000, asked us to serve both a mediation and observation role this past year as they fought to implement their constitutional right to hold a recall referendum on the president—the first in the world.

In Venezuela, The Carter Center partnered with the Organization of American States to monitor and facilitate between a determined opposition and the government the details of obtaining enough citizen signatures to invoke a referendum, which the opposition earned, and to observe the eventual recall vote, which the government won.

Our concern is not with who wins or loses but that a fair and democratic process enables the will of the people to be expressed and accepted. People around the world who hunger for democracy and peace rely on the Center's vigilant and disciplined neutrality, and we take their expectations seriously.



A woman checks her name on the voters' registry at a polling site in Caracas.

Venezuela, Carter Center trainers continue to teach mediation skills necessary for various sectors of society to coexist.

Waging Peace Around the World

Guyana

The Carter Center closed its office in Georgetown, Guyana, in May, having completed its latest project—to improve rule of law and the influence of civil society on public policy. Since 2000, the Center helped establish the Mediation Centre of Guyana to ease the overload of cases, worked with the Guyana Bar Association to revise civil case rules to enhance the judicial system's efficiency, and assisted local nongovernmental organizations to improve their reach and capacity.

The Center had been active in Guyana since 1990, but the political stalemate between the ruling and opposition parties recently led former U.S. President Jimmy Carter to visit Guyana in August to see if the Center could make further contributions to the welfare of all Guyanese. Upon his departure, he made a number of recommendations to start political reconciliation.

China

Chinese election officials will observe elections in Tennessee and Georgia in November as part of the Center's long-term collaboration with the Chinese Ministry of Civil Affairs and National People's Congress to improve

village and township elections in China.

"This is the fourth time we are hosting Chinese officials to observe elections in the United States," said Dr. Yawei Liu, associate director for the Center's China Village Elections Project. "Past delegations have found the exercise fascinating, especially in 2000, when they learned that even the U.S. system has room for improvement."

This summer the Center renewed for another three years its project with the MCA to help standardize village election procedures. In June, Executive Director John Hardman and Dr. Liu led a delegation that observed four village elections in Jilin province and Beijing. In 2003, the Center also had signed a memorandum with the National People's Congress to improve the competitiveness of elections of the local people's congresses in China.

While in Beijing, Dr. Hardman gave the opening speech at an international symposium on advancing political reform sponsored by the Center and the People's University of China. The conference examined the political, legal, cultural, and economic context of furthering political reform in China.



The winning village committee members were issued official certificates at an election spot in Yunnan province, China.



Carter Center field staff led workshops in Guyana on how to increase women's participation in setting the local public agenda.

The Carter Center

Mozambique

The Carter Center observed a generally smooth voter registration in Mozambique in July. More than 600,000 new voters were registered, and now 90 percent of those 18 years and older are registered. The Center is optimistic that the December presidential elections will see a high voter turnout but did urge the electoral council to intensify its efforts to complete and correct computerized voter registration books so as not to disenfranchise any voters during the presidential election.

The Center also intensified its partnership with domestic observers before, during, and after the voter registration update through joint meetings, exchange of information and assessment methodology, and shared transportation. Working with domestic observers is key to many of the Carter Center's effective election observations. Together, domestic and international observers can ensure coverage of most, if not all, of a country and can observe in highly political areas, helping to lower tensions in volatile regions. Nonpartisan national observers can make an important contribution to Mozambique's commitment to credible and transparent elections.

Indonesians Go to Polls for Historic Presidential Election

Six years ago, Indonesians faced an unsure but exciting time in their political history. Having emerged from 40 years of authoritarian rule after President Suharto resigned, they moved forward in 1999 by holding their first open election, for the legislature. This year, Indonesians showed The Carter Center and the international community how far they have come by directly electing their president.

"We receive the report and the recommendations of The Carter Center and then use that information to improve the presidential election. The result of our election receives more legitimacy and credibility if independent, nonpartisan international observers give their opinion."

— RAMLAN SURBAKTI, DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF INDONESIAN ELECTORAL COMMISSION

Carter Center election observers praised the 2004 Indonesian elections, both the first round on July 5 and the Sept. 20 runoff.

"Indonesia's historic first direct presidential elections were successful, with a general atmosphere of calm, order, and open participation," said Dr. David Carroll, interim director of the Center's Democracy Program. "This election represented a major step in the country's ongoing democratic transition. By directly electing their president, Indonesians demonstrated their

disillusioned with government and the country's economic decline. In the second round, about 60 percent of voters chose to replace incumbent President Megawati Sukarnoputri with popular ex-general Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, known as SBY.

Center observers found about 80 percent of the 300 sites they visited to be well-organized and functioning smoothly. However, they noted many election officials did not check voters' fingers for ink to confirm whether they already had voted nor ask for voter identification cards.

A problem in the first round, when ballots were declared invalid due to double punching because they were folded in such a way that some voters punched them without fully opening them, was corrected



Joshua Estey

An official shows a woman at a Jakarta polling station where to drop her presidential ballot.



An election official examines a presidential ballot so the voter's choice can be officially recorded.

commitment to democratic principles and to holding leaders accountable."

Since 1999, Indonesians have gained new political freedoms, but recent public opinion polls found most people

quickly by election officials, who dispatched instructions to polling stations on how to verify questionable ballots. With only two candidates in the runoff, the second-round ballot design was much simpler.

To further improve the electoral process, Center observers recommended designating one specific time for poll closing, enforcing adherence to administrative procedures, and easing restrictions on candidate campaigning. They also encouraged greater participation by domestic observers.

Kits Packed for Last 1 Percent of Disease

Guinea worm disease is unimaginable to most people in the developed world. Yet for thousands of years, it has inflicted needless pain on millions of people in Africa and Asia.

Prevention is as simple as educating villagers about the disease and providing them with straightforward solutions to prevent transmission in drinking water. But once they have the disease, how can we relieve their suffering? The answer: medical kits, tens of thousands of them, each filled with bandages, antibiotic solution, pain relievers, and love.

In the thick of Atlanta's steamy summer, more than 500 corporate and diplomatic community volunteers joined Carter Center staff to assemble crucial medical supplies necessary to eradicate the last 1 percent of Guinea worm disease in the world. After three weeks of bundling gloves, stuffing bags, and counting gauze packets in an unair-conditioned warehouse, 30,000 medical kits were successfully assembled and spirits were high.

"This remarkable demonstration of corporate and personal caring is putting the best face of America forward around the world. By helping to prevent the terrible and unnecessary suffering caused by Guinea worm disease, this project will make life better for some of the most forgotten people in the world," said President Carter.

The kits are being distributed to village-based volunteer health workers in Sudan, Ghana, and Nigeria, the three countries with the most cases of Guinea worm. Supplies are reaching rural areas where medical attention is often unavailable. Each medical kit gives volunteers the tools they need to care for 10 people who suffer from Guinea worm disease, allowing children to return to school and parents to work.

"The medical kits are basic, but their impact in the field will be powerful, providing scarce treatment tools and raising public awareness," said Ernesto Ruiz-Tiben, technical director of the Carter Center's Guinea Worm Eradication Program. "Those who are entrusted with the Guinea worm medical kits have a high status as both caregivers and leaders in their communities."

Access to health is a human right and can be a foundation for peace. Working

together, we can stop Guinea worm now. The end is in sight.



Ernesto Ruiz-Tiben, technical director, Guinea Worm Eradication Program (right), joined other volunteers to pack kits that will help eliminate this debilitating disease.

Willard Harewood



Brian Blackburn

The Carter Center's Lymphatic Filariasis Elimination Program received 56,000 bed nets from Nigeria's ministry of health last spring in a combined effort to prevent the spread of lymphatic filariasis, being addressed by the Center, and malaria, a project of the health ministry. The nets are treated with the insecticide deltamethrin, which is safe to human beings yet kills or repels the mosquitoes that are the carriers of both diseases in rural Africa. The bed nets will be available in two local government areas of Plateau and Nasarawa states in Nigeria that are endemic for both diseases. This woman lives in Seri village in Plateau state.

Mental Health Journalism Fellows Raise Awareness, Promote Issues

Two journalists have become the first South Africans to receive Rosalynn Carter Fellowships for Mental Health Journalism, expanding the reach of this program currently active in New Zealand and the United States.

Each receives a stipend to produce, without career interruption, a project about mental health issues during the fellowship year. Forty-eight journalists already have participated in the program, which began in 1997.

"The fellowships are having a great impact on public understanding of mental health issues," said former U.S. First Lady Rosalynn Carter. "They are one of the most effective tools we have for combating stigma against people with mental illnesses, educating the public, and diminishing long-standing myths."

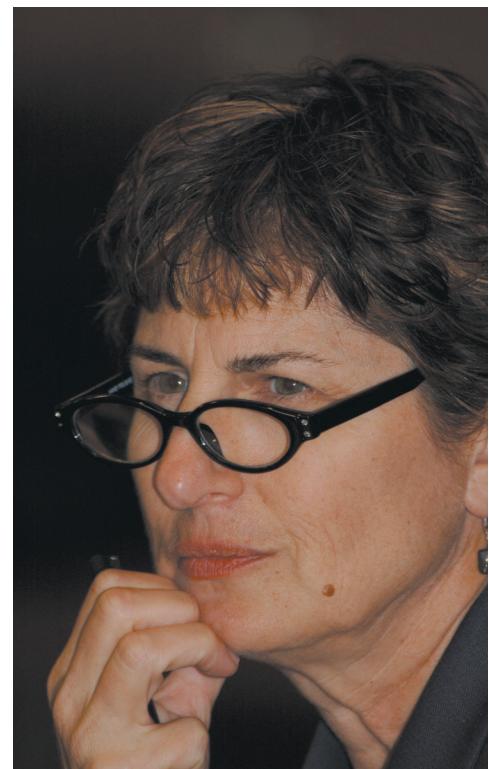
Partners who have helped make possible the recent expansion of the journalism fellowship program include the Annenberg Foundation, the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, and the Karon Family Foundation.

The 10 fellows convene in Atlanta at The Carter Center each September to meet with Mrs. Carter, the Center's Mental Health Task Force, and the Journalism Fellowship Advisory Board to discuss their topics of study. Past projects have included in-depth articles, radio and television documentaries, and books, some garnering awards from the National Mental Health Association, the American Psychological

Association, and Amnesty International, as well as nominations for the Pulitzer Prize and Emmy Award.

The 2004 recipients are Caroline Clauss-Ehlers, freelance writer, New York, N.Y.; Tom Davis, *The Record* columnist, Metuchen, N.J.; Paul Diamond, Radio New Zealand producer, Lower Hutt, New Zealand; Claire Keeton, *Sunday Times* reporter, Johannesburg, South Africa; Jim Marbrook, producer, director, and writer, Auckland, New Zealand; Kevin McCormack, KRON-TV producer, San Francisco, Calif.; Peggy Mears, Brainchild Productions producer, Irvine, Calif.; Greg Miller, *Science* magazine writer/online editor, Blacksburg, Va.; Michelle Roberts, *The Oregonian* reporter, Portland, Ore.; and Kathryn Strachan, freelance writer, Johannesburg, South Africa.

For more information on individual fellowship projects, please visit www.cartercenter.org.



Annemarie Poyo

Peggy Mears of Brainchild Productions is a 2004-2005 fellow. Mears produces Michelle Trudeau's work for National Public Radio and has proposed a radio series, Adolescent Mental Health: Brain, Biology, and Behavior, for her fellowship project.

Forum Explores Impact of New Freedom Study on Georgia

Recovery from mental illnesses is a realistic expectation in the majority of cases today. Yet mental health patients, professionals, and communities nationwide face daunting economic roadblocks that threaten to derail this progress.

Local experts and policy-makers at the 2004 Rosalynn Carter Georgia Mental Health Forum in May explored opportunities presented by President Bush's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health, which recommended ways to strengthen the nation's inadequate mental health care system but left much of the funding to state and local agencies.

"Millions nationwide suffer from a breakdown in delivery of public mental health services due to massive budget cutbacks and repeated reorganizations," said Mental Health Program Director Thomas Bornemann. "Governments are charged with the mechanics of transforming the system. Our responsibility is to help them where we can and make it happen."

The program will continue to seek solutions by focusing on children's access to mental health care at the 2004 Rosalynn Carter Symposium on Mental Health Policy in November and the April 2005 Conversations at The Carter Center event, which is open to the public.

Sponsors Provide Guinea Worm Supplies and Support

The success of the Center's recent Guinea worm medical kit project would not have been possible without the strong support of organizations motivated by the possibility of helping eliminate the last 1 percent of Guinea worm disease. (See related story, page 5.) The medical supplies, donated by Johnson & Johnson and the Kimberly-Clark Corporation, were sorted and packed into backpacks promoting the message, "Stop Guinea worm disease now! Ask Me How!"

Please visit www.cartercenter.org to provide a tax-deductible contribution for shipping these crucial medical kits and replacement supplies.

Shipping costs are estimated at \$10 USD per medical kit.

Selig Enterprises generously donated the warehouse where the medical supplies were stored and then assembled by nearly 500 local volunteers. Other sponsors included the Atlanta Bread Company, Chick-fil-A, and EndosPromo, which provided breakfast each morning for the volunteers. Bottled water provided by

The Coca-Cola Company kept volunteers refreshed during each day's activities.

Throughout the three-week project, volunteers had the opportunity to win gift certificates donated by Krispy Kreme Doughnuts, RARE Hospitality

International/Longhorn Steakhouse, and Delta Air Lines. Corporate sponsors Home Depot and Proof of the Pudding provided the supplies necessary to complete the volunteer effort—the largest in the Center's 21-year history.

Participating Organizations

Alston & Bird LLP	Kimberly-Clark Corporation / Kimberly-Clark Health Care
Atlanta Bread Company	Krispy Kreme Doughnuts
Airport-Atrium, LLC	Netherlands Foreign Investment Agency
BellSouth Corporation	Noramco, Inc.
British Consulate General	Proof of the Pudding
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	RARE Hospitality International, Inc./ Longhorn Steakhouse
Chick-fil-A, Inc.	Rollins School of Public Health of Emory University
The Coca-Cola Company	Selig Enterprises, Inc.
Consulate General of Canada	Sinclair Townes & Co.
Consulate General of France	Southern Company
Consulate General of Japan	Sudan Lost Boys Foundation
Council of State Governments, Southern Region	Sudanese Refugee Women
Delta Air Lines, Inc.	Federation Organization
DeKalb Medical Center's Cancer Survivors Group	Theragenics Corporation
EndosPromo, LLC	Ulster Project-Atlanta
Health Students Taking Action Together	UPS
The Home Depot, Inc.	State University of West Georgia
ING	WSB-TV
Johnson & Johnson	

Donors and Center Gain From Annuities

Four times a year, Carter Center supporters Jack and Louise Daniels of Cobleskill, N.Y., receive a check from The Carter Center. How is this possible?

Mr. and Mrs. Daniels have made a gift to The Carter Center to establish a charitable gift annuity that provides them with a guaranteed stream of lifetime income. At their deaths, the remaining amount becomes available to the Center to support work in waging peace, fighting disease, and building hope.

"We are enthusiastic about the Carter Center's worldwide efforts, so we have

made a charitable gift annuity to support those efforts while at the same time increasing our own modest income by the generous return the annuity gives," said Mr. Daniels. And Louise and Jack are not the only members of their family benefiting from an annuity with The Carter Center. "We also have arranged one for our son," Mrs. Daniels added.

Charitable gift annuities are simple to set up and may be funded with cash or appreciated securities. To learn more about how you can begin receiving checks from The Carter Center, please contact Rhonda

Schultz in the Office of Gift Planning by telephone at (800) 550-3560, ext. 868, or by e-mail at rhonda.schultz@emory.edu.

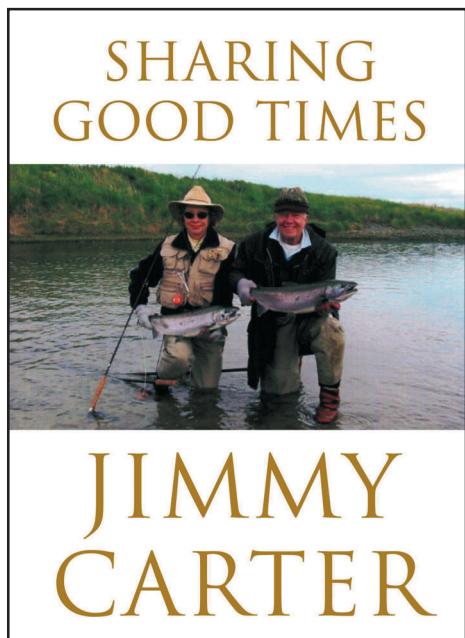
The Carter Center's Web site now includes a gift annuity calculator. Please visit www.cartercenter.org/annuity to input information and immediately review the benefits of a charitable gift annuity for yourself or loved ones.

Carter Chronicles Good Times

In his latest book, President Carter writes about the things that matter most—the simple, relaxed days and nights he has enjoyed with family and friends through the years and across generations.

His accounts of exploring the outdoors with his father and playmates; making furniture and painting; and learning to share life with his wife, Rosalynn, are witty, inviting tales from a life of work and pleasure.

Published by Simon and Schuster, *Sharing Good Times* is due in bookstores in November.



Ford Funds Conflict Resolution

The Ford Foundation has been a strong supporter of The Carter Center for more than 20 years. Most recently, the foundation provided a three-year, \$600,000 grant to allow the Center to maintain and expand its capacity to prevent or mediate conflict within borders. This important gift funds analysis of existing and emerging conflicts around



After 9/11: Messages From the World and Images of Ground Zero

Through Jan. 2, 2005, at the Jimmy Carter Presidential Library in Atlanta

The U.S. Diplomacy Center of the U.S. State Department, in cooperation with the Museum of the City of New York, has put together an exhibition of letters, poems, paintings, drawings, quilts, photos, and other gifts that poured into New York, Washington, D.C., and Pennsylvania after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. Many of these genuine expressions of sympathy were brought or sent to U.S. embassies around the world. The exhibition also includes photographs of Ground Zero.

Visit www.jimmycarterlibrary.org for more information.

Renowned Program Trains Students

The Carter Center internship program has provided a rich and rewarding complement to classroom experience for nearly 2,000 interns for more than 20 years. During that time, the program has gained an international reputation for nurturing skills, knowledge, and commitment that shape participants' educations and careers.

The fall 2004 interns come from Africa, Asia, the Middle East, North America, and western Europe. Collectively, members of the group speak 13 languages in addition to English.

In addition to supporting the Center's important work, interns learn through a series of educational programs, mentoring by program staff, and interactions with a talented group of intern peers. The unique opportunities provided by the Carter Center internship program consistently place it on the *Princeton Review's* list of top internship programs.

For more details and internship program updates, please check the Carter Center Web site at www.cartercenter.org.

pursue a nonviolent electoral solution to their differences through a presidential recall referendum. This helped avert a possible civil war in this important oil-producing nation.

In Liberia, The Carter Center consulted with the international community, the transitional government, and former combatants to define a role for its Democracy Program to help set the stage for free and fair elections, contributing to reconciliation in this war-torn country.