

# THE CARTER CENTER NEWS

FALL 2005

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THE  
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# Elections in Ethiopia, Liberia Advance Democracy in Africa

**I**ncreased competition and opposition participation in elections observed by The Carter Center in Liberia and Ethiopia marked progress for democracy in Africa in recent months.

Ethiopia's May 2005 elections for national parliament, which gave citizens a

cross the country in April to observe election preparations and campaigning. A team of 50 observers led by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, former Botswana President Sir Ketumile Joni Masire, and former Tanzania Prime Minister Judge Joseph Warioba observed the May 15



D. Hakes/The Carter Center

*As President Carter observes, an election official at a polling station in Monrovia, Liberia, explains to a voter how to mark and fold his ballot.*

democratic choice for the first time, were sharply contested by opposition groups. In the Oct. 11 Liberian presidential and legislative elections, the country's first truly competitive elections in 25 years, 22 candidates vied for the presidency.

As Africa's oldest independent nation, Ethiopia's diverse history of monarchies, military occupation, and Marxist governments has challenged the nation's move toward democracy. In Liberia, a generation of civil war and instability has prevented elections from taking place in a fair and genuinely competitive environment.

As a trusted expert in democracy development, The Carter Center was invited by both nations this year to monitor historic national elections.

At stake in Ethiopia's May 2005 polls were 524 of 547 constituency-based seats in the national parliament. The Carter Center established a field presence in Ethiopia in March and sent six observers

national elections. A Carter Center team also monitored the subsequent electoral complaints investigation process and re-elections in 31 constituencies in August.

Electoral reforms allowed more opposition access to the media and open debates between candidates, and voting day was mostly calm, with high voter turnout.

*continued on page 3*

*President and Mrs. Carter and a delegation of senior Carter Center officials traveled to Mali, Nigeria, and Ethiopia to observe efforts there to prevent disease and combat poverty. Read about the trip on page 2.*

*From the Executive Director*

## Preventing Suffering, Building Better Futures

*The Carter Center builds sustainable programs in countries to help people make positive changes in their own communities to prevent suffering.*

This summer, a Carter Center delegation visited three African countries. I watched a young girl in Mosebo, Ethiopia, demonstrate how to help prevent trachoma, a blinding bacterial infection, by washing her face. Without such hygiene, she will be at three times greater risk of becoming permanently blind from trachoma—suffering not only the horrific pain of this disease but also the equally devastating social isolation resulting from her disability.

Carter Center health workers are making vast and lasting improvements in quality of life in this small village of Mosebo. In just one year, 251 of 2,000 villagers were treated with antibiotics for active trachoma, 367 household latrines were built to lessen risk of infections, and 127 community volunteers were trained on trachoma control guidelines. Thanks to these efforts and others, the shy, smiling child I met possesses the tools to fight trachoma and preserve her sight.



V. Vick/The Carter Center

*Carter Center Executive Director John Hardman greets a young Ethiopian boy who had just shown the Carter Center delegation his household latrine. Use of latrines lessens infection risks associated with trachoma, a disease that can lead to blindness.*

In Mali, one of the poorest nations in the world, a partnership between the government of Mali and The Carter Center has been helping to prevent disease and fight hunger for many years. Here, The Carter Center and Malian farmers are implementing programs to improve national and regional food security, generate rural income, and facilitate the transition to more sustainable farming systems. Successes in these areas led to Mali's invitation for the Center's Global Development Initiative to assist the nation in strengthening its overall economic capacity.

Famine is only one factor that contributes to poverty. In the mid-1990s, Guinea worm infections in part of the heavily populated region of southeast Nigeria caused an estimated \$20 million USD in lost income to rice farmers. Once the most Guinea worm-endemic nation in the world, Nigeria reported 653,000 cases when Carter Center disease eradication activities began in 1988. Simple prevention techniques, such as health education and the use of cloth filters, have reduced the incidence of Guinea worm to 116 cases this



V. Vick/The Carter Center

*John Moores, chairman of the Carter Center Board of Trustees, examines the water flowing out of a gourd used for hand washing after latrine use. Good hygiene is an important component in trachoma prevention.*



V. Vick/The Carter Center

*Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter and Emory University President Jim Wagner observe a traditional welcoming ceremony in Mosebo, a village in the Amhara region of Ethiopia.*

year, with the prospect of transmission stopping entirely in 2006.

Whether it's Nigeria eradicating Guinea worm, Mali combating poverty, Ethiopia controlling trachoma, or programming in any of the 65 countries where we wage peace, fight disease, and build hope, The Carter Center helps people discover their own potential to build better futures for themselves.

## War on Terror No Excuse for Human Rights Abuses

At a June conference at The Carter Center, human rights defenders called for global action to address human rights abuses as counter-terrorism efforts around the world increase. Participants expressed concern that a growing preoccupation with fighting terrorism is helping to conceal human rights abuses in many countries.

Activists from 14 countries and representatives from major U.S. human rights organizations joined former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Louise Arbour, and U.N. Special Representative for Human Rights Defenders Hina Jilani at the second conference in a series titled “Human Rights Defenders on the Frontlines of Freedom: Advancing Security and the Rule of Law.”

The group concluded that, although the war against terrorism is necessary, many countries use it as a pretext to restrict freedoms and target human rights defenders. The current pervasive state of emergency often condones despotic government acts if perpetrators claim to be partners in the U.S. fight against terrorism, they said.

Conference participants also condemned revelations of systematic torture in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, as well as policies of indefinitely detaining terror suspects in those and other secret detention facilities. They said these policies are eroding global human rights and rule of law principles serving as the basis for national human rights and democracy movements worldwide.

“If democracy and human rights are to take root throughout the world, then local and national movements must be at the center of our concern. If these leaders are telling us that the current U.S. approach makes their efforts more difficult, then we should listen very

carefully and press U.S. leaders to do so as well,” said Karin Ryan, Carter Center human rights advisor.

Other conference recommendations included closing Guantánamo and the two dozen secret detention facilities run by the United States as soon as is practical; establishing an independent commission with authority to investigate and publicly report on places where terrorism suspects are held in U.S. custody; and calling for concerted international action to combat the most extreme human rights violations in such places as Burma, Uzbekistan, and Zimbabwe.



*Gustavo Gallon, director of the Colombia Commission of Jurists, addresses conference participants as former First Lady Rosalynn Carter looks on.*

Annemarie Poyo Furlong

*continued from cover page*

### Ethiopia, Liberia, cont.

However, the postelection period was marred by several days of protests and electoral violence, delays in vote tabulation, a large number of electoral complaints, and a prolonged, problematic electoral dispute-resolution process. After the re-elections, final results confirmed 174 seats in parliament for opposition parties, a marked increase over the 12 seats held after the elections in 2000.

“Although the postelection period was disappointing, the potential for multiparty democracy to take hold here is great,” said President Carter at a postelection meeting with media. “These elections could prove

to be a major step forward on Ethiopia’s democratic path.”

In Liberia, The Carter Center has worked to foster peace and democracy since 1991. The October 2005 presidential and legislative elections followed a two-year transition for the country after the adoption of a comprehensive peace agreement in 2003, ending 14 years of civil war. The elections were critical for Liberia to build a new foundation for peace and development in the country and the region.

In June, The Carter Center opened an office in Monrovia to launch its ongoing Liberia Election Observation Project and partnered with the National Democratic Institute to organize a 40-person inter-

national election observer delegation led by President Carter and former Benin President Nicephore Soglo to monitor the October elections.

With the vote tabulation in progress, the delegation praised the commitment to democracy and desire for peace reflected in massive voter turnout at the polls during a virtually violence-free election day.

“If successful, this election will put Liberia in a position to turn now toward sustainable peace and democracy,” said David Carroll, director of the Carter Center’s Democracy Program. “The main challenges for the future are to take steps to end insecurity and implement a program for transparent governance and economic development.”

# The Right to Know: Center Builds Hope by Building Transparency in the Americas

In many democracies, whether newly developing or long established, a culture of government secrecy is all too familiar. Without the watchful eyes of empowered constituents, corruption flourishes, public programs are less effective, and government accountability can be elusive.

The passing and implementing of access to information acts has become important in democracy building worldwide, particularly in newly developing nations. Writing such legislation and effectively incorporating it into government functions is a difficult task, but there is hope.

Since 1999, the Carter Center's Access to Information initiative, led by Laura Neuman, has advised nations as they begin the long process to remove a culture of concealment and create a tradition of

"You have to convince people that they can question a government's actions, because they've been taught otherwise their whole lives," she explained.

*The Carter Center works to promote transparency in the Western Hemisphere through its Access to Information initiative in Jamaica, Bolivia, and Nicaragua.*

And if a public information system is not tested, it may fall back into its old

determine which documents are important and how they should be archived. With all that paper, and nowhere to put it, many important documents are burned while useless ones are kept in messy piles in offices or storage rooms. Neuman noted that many developing nations could use scarce resources more efficiently if they had more knowledge of how government information and documents can be used.

Equally critical, local media and grassroots organizations must be trained to use the knowledge they acquire. Neuman cited an example of how the news media in Jamaica failed to further investigate a Jamaican civil society group's discovery of a potential problem: "The organization learned of a railroad commission with staff and its own office. The only problem was

# Strengthenin

government transparency.

"Relatively speaking, passing the laws is the easiest part; implementing the laws, the most challenging; and enforcing them is the most important," said Neuman, who noted it also is difficult to persuade constituents that accessing information is their right.



habits, leading to corruption and human rights abuses. "When access to information laws are used, those abuses

can be minimized," Neuman contended, "because it's not just

one eye watching. It's thousands upon thousands of eyes."

Another issue is how to help nations

that there is no functioning railroad in Jamaica. It gave the story to the media, but no one picked up on it."

Above all, Neuman argued, access to information is a cornerstone to democracy: "Access to information is an important pillar in any democratic regime. It builds confidence and credibility. How meaningful is the right to vote if you don't know what you're voting for? Without information, citizens cannot experience the full value of democracy—the promise that they will be able to participate in government decisions that directly affect their lives."

# Projects Aim for Openness in Campaign Finance

WEalthy and poor nations alike struggle to create financially viable electoral processes that are not unduly influenced by special interest groups trying to buy access to government decision-makers.

in 2003, at which leaders from industry, media owners, government officials, and leaders of nongovernmental organizations discussed how to ensure continuous, just, and transparent campaign financing.

never know the platform of the opposition or that an opposition exists at all. For this reason, support by special interests often determines who is elected and, perhaps, how the candidate will behave in office.

“We did something no one had done before,” Dr. McConnell explained. “We included actors in the process who were widely considered the root of the trouble. If they were a part of the problem, they had to be a part of the solution, too.”

“But with the media maps we’re creating on the Internet,” Dr. McConnell said,

*Policy-makers and the public will have more resources to facilitate reforms to offer parties equitable media access.*

“Especially in Latin America and the Caribbean, where government budgets tend to be too small to financially support political parties, voters are often unaware of the diversity of choices available to them or may unknowingly vote for a candidate who owes his or her political life

Today, The Carter Center, in partnership with Transparency International, is working to encourage political officials to report who gave their campaigns how much, when, and for what purpose.



# g Democracy

to a special interest group,” said Dr. Shelley McConnell, senior associate director of the Carter Center’s Americas Program.

Governments in Ecuador and Colombia, for example, have been deeply damaged by campaign finance scandals. In the Caribbean, traditionally stable party systems have suffered from corruption and increasing fears of drug money padding party coffers.

In response to the need to protect and strengthen the exercise of democracy in the Western Hemisphere, The Carter Center hosted a three-day conference, “Financing Democracy in the Americas,”

As an incentive to reform, each country will be ranked on an index—allowing their governments and potential foreign investors to assess national progress.

Additionally, The Carter Center, with the University of Calgary and the Canadian Foundation for the Americas, is creating territorial maps of media access and ownership in a dozen countries in the hemisphere to show exactly which news and political advertising sources reach voters in each country’s electoral districts.

In towns with access to only one media outlet, if a media owner favors one candidate over another, some towns may

“policy-makers and the public will have more resources to facilitate reforms to offer parties equitable media access.”

Additionally, local governments have said they will use this system to identify which media outlets reach isolated communities to ensure that public education broadcasts to inform citizens of voting procedure are heard throughout a country.

“These two projects will improve political finance practices and contribute to a holistic and leading-edge approach to democracy strengthening, helping countries in our hemisphere to build an even brighter future,” said Dr. McConnell.

## Profile: Moses Katarbarwa

*Katarbarwa and kinship groups reinvigorate public health delivery around the globe, one family at a time*

The son of an area chief in the former Ankole Kingdom, Moses Katarbarwa learned early the importance of family, community, and grassroots action.

Working with the Carter Center's River Blindness Control Program in Uganda from 1996–2003, Dr. Katarbarwa made a significant impact at home and abroad through his use of kinship structures to improve river blindness prevention. Now an epidemiologist in Atlanta headquarters, Dr. Katarbarwa is applying his unique approach to other interventions, such as the river blindness eradication program in the Americas and Guinea worm eradication.

Spread by the bite of black flies that breed in swift rivers, onchocerciasis bears the most devastating effect in rural areas, where access to even basic medical care is extremely difficult. Yet, in Africa, river blindness is easily prevented with a single yearly dose of Mectizan®, an antibiotic donated by Merck & Co.

Trained in anthropology and public health, Dr. Katarbarwa understood Ugandan kinship groups include both immediate and extended relatives in a concentrated geographic area. Kinships are traditional, grassroots structures, which can be used in public health initiatives to ensure trust, equity, and quality of health care services, especially in disadvantaged communities.

“Incorporating kinship groups in treatment efforts for onchocerciasis also is the cheapest and most convenient way to serve vulnerable groups, such as the elderly and children, because members of kinships do

not require monetary incentives to provide services to their kinsmen and women,” Dr. Katarbarwa explained.

Prevention and treatment efforts in remote endemic areas are more efficient and complete, especially when health workers are unable to visit frequently.

“If you give people the tools to treat their kin, they will make sure that a cousin who is absent when the health workers visit will get medicine,” he said.

*River blindness, or onchocerciasis, affects more than 120 million people living in 37 endemic countries in Africa and the Americas.*

According to Dr. Katarbarwa, the River Blindness Program has brought about a revolution in perceptions of health care delivery in Africa.

“People had been told medicine should only be handled by trained doctors. But when kinships were utilized, communities



Wilford Harewood

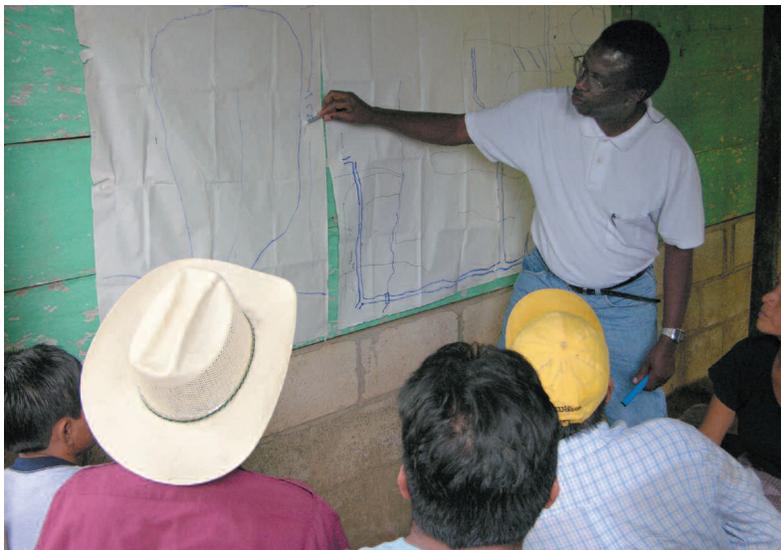
*Moses Katarbarwa (left) received the Sheth Distinguished International Alumni Award from Emory University President James Wagner in March 2005.*

demonstrated they could deliver items such as medicine without wasting it and treat everyone who needed to be treated,” he noted.

This basic approach has been tremendously successful. Approximately 90 percent of people in endemic areas in Uganda have received Mectizan treatment annually for the past six years, which was well above the target goal, and the kinship method was included in Uganda’s national health policy.

Incorporating kinship structures into health education and Mectizan distribution strategies has allowed more women, as customary caregivers, to become empowered through their community leadership in the program. And because many more people are trained to dispense treatments to their families, the program can sustain itself indefinitely at that level—building a foundation for other health interventions at the local level.

Most importantly, Dr. Katarbarwa said these communities are inspired: “Before, people waited for the government. Now they believe they can do it themselves.”



OEPA/The Carter Center

*Moses Katarbarwa shows a group in Guatemala the importance of community structures in the delivery of health care services.*

## Donors Work to Meet Gates Challenges for Guinea Worm and River Blindness

In April 2005, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation pledged \$25 million to The Carter Center to expedite the fight against Guinea worm disease, contributing \$5 million outright and \$20 million in the form of a dollar-for-dollar challenge grant over the next four years. Carter Center donors have risen to the challenge this year, and The Carter Center is more than halfway to reaching its \$20 million goal.

Carter Center donors have further demonstrated their commitment to the eradication of Guinea worm disease by signing more than 15,000 notes of encour-

agement that will be sent to the presidents of Benin and Uganda, two countries in which the disease is no longer transmitted. The notes thank President Mathieu Kerekou of Benin and President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni of Uganda for their leadership and decisiveness in the fight against Guinea worm disease. The Carter Center plans to collect the notes through the fall and deliver them early next year.

In addition to the fight against Guinea worm disease, donors continue to respond to another challenge from the Gates Foundation, which pledged \$10 million

in 2003 to help eliminate river blindness (onchocerciasis) from the Americas by 2010. The foundation contributed \$5 million outright and \$5 million as a challenge grant. Of the \$5 million required to complete the Gates challenge, only a half a million in matching funds still needs to be raised.

To contribute to either the river blindness or Guinea worm disease challenges, where your contribution will be matched dollar for dollar, go to the Support Our Work section of the Carter Center Web site ([www.cartercenter.org](http://www.cartercenter.org)).

## Ireland Awards Grants for Liberia, Human Rights

The Carter Center recently received two grants from Development Cooperation Ireland for a human rights conference and an election observation project, marking a new partnership between the Center and the government of Ireland based on a mutual interest in peace, justice, and human rights.

The first grant of 250,000 Euros (more than \$300,000) was given for the Carter Center's long-term election monitoring project in Liberia to ensure fair presidential elections. This project began in April 2005 and is scheduled to end in January 2006.

The second grant of 50,000 Euros (more than \$60,000) was made in support of the Human Rights Defenders Policy Forum, held June 4–5, 2005, at The

Carter Center (see story on p. 3). The forum was co-chaired by President Carter and U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Louise Arbour, and attended by U.N. Special Representative for Human Rights Defenders Hina Jilani, defenders from 14 nations, and representatives from major human rights organizations.

Ireland has had an official development assistance program since 1974, which has grown steadily over the years. Its support of projects, such as those of The Carter Center, through its development cooperation arm reflects Ireland's wider foreign policy: a long-standing commitment to human rights and fairness in international relations.

## Life Insurance: Tool for Giving

Many of us appreciate life insurance as a way of providing financial security for our families. A policy provides benefits that are much greater than the premiums paid for it.

This same concept can strengthen The Carter Center. Life insurance policies naming the Center as beneficiary help carry our vision of peace and health into the world far beyond those we serve today.

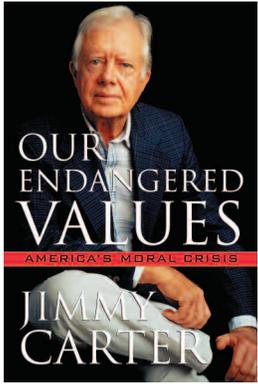
How can you help? Consider (a) naming The Carter Center as a primary, secondary, or partial beneficiary of a policy you already own or are purchasing, or (b) transferring to the Center ownership of an existing policy that you hold but no longer need. This type of gift may generate a tax deduction, and future premium payments will receive favorable tax treatment.

To learn more, contact Rhonda Schultz in the Office of Gift Planning at (800) 550-3560 ext. 868 or by e-mail at [rhonda.schultz@emory.edu](mailto:rhonda.schultz@emory.edu).

*Special thanks to our friends at Wachovia Insurance Services for contributing this article.*

The Carter Center occasionally rents its mailing list of inactive donor names to other organizations as a way of raising extra money to support Carter Center health and peace efforts. If you do not wish to participate in this program, please call our Development Office at (404) 420-5109, e-mail [lkane@emory.edu](mailto:lkane@emory.edu), or write The Carter Center, Attn: Gayle Beckner, One Copenhill, 453 Freedom Parkway, Atlanta, GA 30307.

## Carter Examines Transformation of American Values



In his latest book, President Carter writes about the extensive and profound transformations that are taking place in our nation's basic moral values, public discourse, and political philosophy. These transformations involve the increasingly intertwined religious and political worlds and some of the



most divisive current issues, such as the death penalty, science versus religion, the environment, U.S. foreign policy, and our global image.

Published by Simon and Schuster, "Our Endangered Values: America's Moral Crisis" is due in bookstores in November.

## Exhibit Showcases Role of First Ladies

A unique exhibition, "First Ladies: Political Role and Public Image," is now on display at the Jimmy Carter Library and Museum in Atlanta, Ga. Featuring first ladies' gowns and clothing, personal belongings, White House furnishings, campaign keepsakes, and other historic items, the exhibition examines the duties of the president's wife as national hostess, explores how her role has evolved from ceremonial partner to one of international celebrity and recognized political power, and finally, illustrates the importance of the first lady's public image to the success of a presidential administration. The Jimmy Carter Library and Museum is the only venue in the Southeast scheduled to host this traveling Smithsonian exhibition, which will be housed at the museum until Jan. 15, 2006.

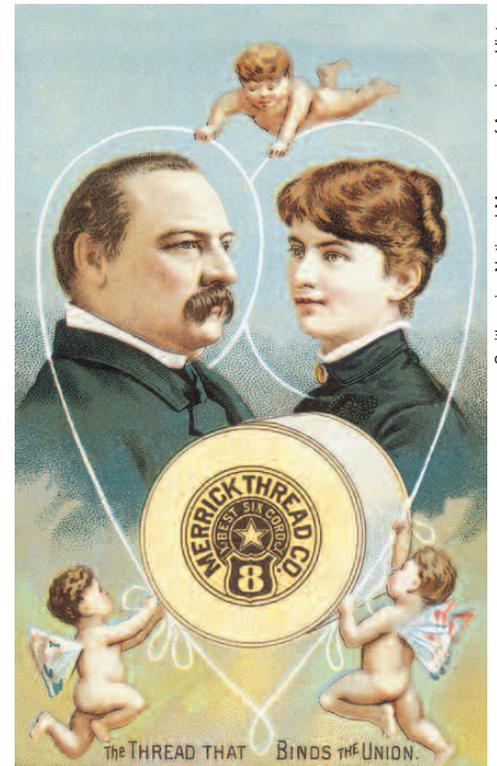


## Recipients of 2005–2006 Rosalynn Carter Fellowships for Mental Health Journalism Tackle Yearlong Projects

Ten journalists will study and report on topics ranging from the psychological welfare of immigrant children to the challenges of adults with anxiety disorders in the workplace.

From left, first row: Shandukani Mathagu, freelance journalist, Sibasa, South Africa; Phil Smith, Radio New Zealand, Wellington, New Zealand; Mrs. Carter; President Carter; Ingrid Leary, freelance reporter and producer, Auckland, New Zealand; Julianne Hill, Worldwide Skur, Chicago. Second row: Karen Brown, WFCR-FM, Northampton, Mass.; Marion Scher, freelance journalist, Johannesburg, South Africa; Michelle Trudeau, National Public Radio, Irvine, Calif.; Rob Waters, freelance journalist, Berkeley, Calif.; Encarnacion Pyle, The Columbus Dispatch, Columbus, Ohio. Last row: Leigh Woosley, Tulsa World, Tulsa, Okla.

Annemarie Poyo Furlong



Smithsonian National Museum of American History

Frances Folsom Cleveland's image appeared on an array of souvenirs and advertisements, such as this ad for the Merrick Thread Company.