



## IRI Commemorates President Reagan's Westminister Speech

Twenty-five years ago, in a speech to the British Parliament, President Ronald Reagan called on Americans "to foster the infrastructure of democracy -- the system of a free press, unions, political parties, universities -- which allows a people to choose their own way, their own culture, to reconcile their own differences through peaceful means."

To commemorate this pivotal June 8, 1982, speech, the International Republican Institute (IRI) hosted a panel discussion featuring Richard V. Allen, President Reagan's first National Security Affairs Advisor; IRI Board Member Frank J. Fahrenkopf, Jr., Co-Chairman of the Democracy Program study, whose principle recommendations helped craft the National Endowment for Democracy initiative; Mark Palmer, credited with conceiving some of the core ideas behind President Reagan's Westminister speech; and Michael Samuels, who helped shape the ideas that went into the Democracy Program study. IRI Board Member Richard S. Williamson, who was an Assistant to President Reagan at the White House and was also Assistant Secretary of State for International Organization Affairs, served as moderator.

The panel was followed by a dinner featuring a keynote address by The



Ed Meese speaking at IRI's celebration of President Reagan's Westminister Speech.

Honorable Edwin Meese, III, former Counselor to the President and U.S. Attorney General.

Rich Williamson opened the panel by reminding people of President Reagan's long held beliefs. Quoting a 1980 Reagan speech, Williamson said, "Peace must be such that freedom can flourish and justice prevail...Our foreign policy should be to show by example the greatness of our system and the strength of American ideals."

Richard Allen recalled the impact

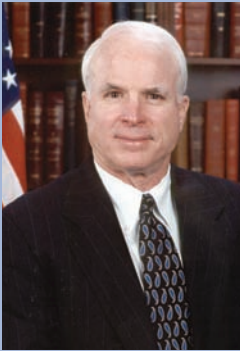
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## A Message from the Chairman

*A statement by Senator John McCain read at a dinner celebrating the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of President Ronald Reagan's speech at Westminster.*



**T**wo and a half decades have passed since President Ronald Reagan delivered the historic speech we have occasion to celebrate

tonight. “We live now at a turning point,” he announced, and it was hard then to imagine just what a turning point it was. Within less than a decade, the Berlin Wall fell, the Soviet Union was shattered, and democracy was on the march throughout much of the Communist bloc. By calling on America to foster the infrastructure of democracy, in all countries and among all peoples, President Reagan

helped chart a new course for our country and the world.

With the establishment of the National Endowment for Democracy, the IRI, and its allies, and by stating forthrightly America’s mission to promote democratic change, President Reagan put America firmly on the side of freedom. We must not deviate from this course. We see in some places setbacks in the march forward, and the path is strewn with obstacles. But democracy promotion should be a question of how, not if.

The promotion of freedom is the most authentic expression of our national character. To accept the abridgement of those rights for other societies should be no less false to the

American heart than to accept their abridgement in our own society. Let us reject the idea that our advocacy of democratic values around the globe is reckless and in vain, or that freedom only works for wealthy nations and Western cultures. Such a short-sighted view of American purpose is blind to the futility of building walls in a world made remarkably smaller because of the success of American values. A world where our political and economic values have a realistic chance of becoming a global ideal was the principal object of Ronald Reagan’s foreign policy. We should embrace the consequences of our success, and determine the best methods for extending them to lands where they remain denied.

## Democracy Promotion in the Middle East: the Right Policy?

**I**n the late 1990s, reform in the Middle East was limited to a number of monarchies that had decided to allow a gradual opening of their political systems. Today, throughout the region, people are openly discussing and debating democracy, a fact unthinkable only a few years ago. The centrality of this debate is a positive change – one that citizens from Afghanistan to Morocco welcome after years of internal decay and stagnation.

While there are serious challenges for local democratic activists in places like Tunisia, Syria and Iran, there were also gains in a number of countries in

recent years. In Lebanon, the peaceful actions of civil society organizations in 2005 accelerated democratic change. In 2006, critical elections in Kuwait extended the vote to women for the first time in the country’s history. The efforts of domestic monitors in the face of government interference helped provide citizen oversight for the first time in Egypt’s otherwise flawed parliamentary elections.

Iran’s students and ethnic minorities have joined with the broader middle class to publicly criticize the economic and social failings of that country’s theocratic regime. An incremental yet deliberate approach employed in

countries like Oman has resulted in significant legislative strengthening and has provided an opening of political space for citizens who are eager to participate. In 2007, important national elections in both Morocco and Jordan are expected to further political reforms that are already underway in both countries.

For the first time in three decades, Afghanistan has a democratically elected parliament. An ongoing accomplishment of this legislature has been to strengthen relationships between constituents and their representatives in Kabul,

**Continued on next page**

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 difficult given the lack of both democratic tradition and current transportation infrastructure. Reform-minded elected officials now conduct their own constituent meetings, modeled after IRI's town hall meetings in 2006. In Pakistan, a decade of democratic rule and multi-party politics was shortened in 1999 by a return to military rule. Despite the corruption and personality-based politics that defined democracy during this period, IRI's recent poll found that 80 percent of the Pakistani people believe that democracy will make their lives better. When asked their intention to vote if elections are held, 94 percent responded affirmatively.

Despite the challenges to democracy

and criticisms of the pace of reform, success is being realized in the broader Middle East. To judge the progress of reform, one must look at much less dramatic indicators than elections, such as a maturing of representative bodies and the development of civil society.

Through its work with political parties, civil society, women and youth, IRI has learned that much of the challenge to democracy in the Middle East does not come from popular resistance to reform, but from deeply entrenched personalities and groups, usually in current governments that feel threatened by reform. Ultimately, it is the people of the region who will strike a balance between democratic change and tradition.



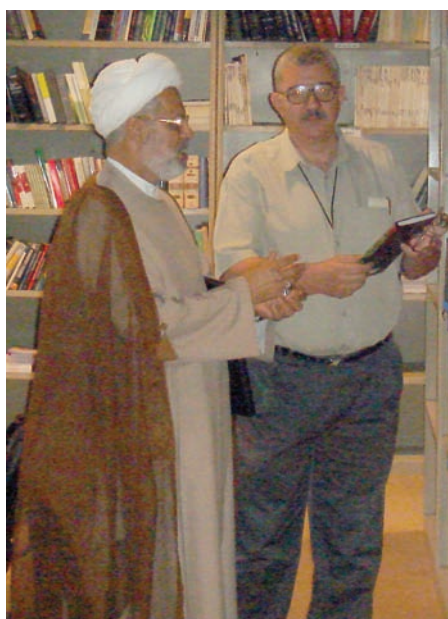
**A candidate from Ajloun, Jordan practices giving a campaign speech in the traditional seated style.**

## Research Facility in Iraq Helps New Government in Crafting Policy

**T**he January 2005 elections for the transitional Iraqi National Assembly and the December 2005 elections for the permanent Iraqi Council of Representatives (ICR) brought many new legislators into office. Among the challenges to the young government are a lack of legislative experience among most members -- many of whom were victims of Saddam's prisons or exiles newly returned to Iraq -- and an absence of trained professionals to staff parliament.

Drawing on experience from previous IRI programs, the institute helped legislative leaders establish a department within the parliament to provide objective, nonpartisan research and policy analysis. The Research

Directorate, composed of a library and of research, legislative drafting and budget departments, provides support



**A member of the ICR uses the library to research legislation.**

services to members and staff of the ICR.

In organizing the directorate, IRI hosted a study mission for Iraqis to the Czech parliamentary research unit in Prague. IRI also, organized seminars in Baghdad and Amman, led by the former Deputy Director and Senior Specialist in Public Policy at the United States Congressional Research Service, along with the former Research Director for the Norwegian parliament. Experts from the United Kingdom's House of Commons research unit and the Canadian Library of Parliament also provided training.

The directorate has given  
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**see RESEARCH FACILITY**

## April's Elections Fail the Nigerian People

It is not always about coming up with new technologies, but rather applying proven technologies in new ways.



Stephanie Blanton, IRI's Regional Program Director for Africa, using the IVR system.

For the April 2007 Nigerian elections, the IRI observation team used Interactive Voice Response (IVR) technology to collect real-time information on the electoral process.

As election observers visited polling stations, they would call into the IVR system using the touch-tone key pad, and report what they were seeing. Those answers were instantaneously compiled and allowed IRI a real-time snapshot of the electoral process throughout the country.

In what was heralded as the first democratic transition of power since Nigeria's independence in 1960, voters went to the polls on April 21, 2007, to elect a new president. However, rather than serve as an example of democratic transition, the government oversaw a broken electoral process that allowed the election to be stolen from the Nigerian people.

As it did in 1999 and 2003, IRI fielded an international election observation delegation to monitor voting and ballot counting throughout the country. Led by Ambassador Pierre-Richard Prosper, former U.S. Ambassador-at-Large for War Crimes; Father Apollinaire Mulholongu Malumalu, President of the Electoral Commission of the Democratic Republic of the Congo; and Andras Gyurk, Member of the European Parliament from Hungary, IRI delegates from China, Democratic Republic of Congo, Hungary, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Namibia, Poland, Somaliland, Uganda and the United States, monitored polling stations throughout Nigeria.

IRI monitors reported numerous irregularities on Election Day. Polls opened

late in a majority of states and often lacked materials as essential as ballots and results sheets. Polling in some areas of the country did not begin until after the scheduled closing time of 5 p.m., and many polling stations did not open at all. Other irregularities witnessed include underage voting, significant faults with the voter registration list, stuffed ballot boxes, group voting, party

observers and police officials instructing voters how to vote, a general lack of confidentiality throughout the balloting process and early closings of polling places.

Nigerians, who craved a free and fair election, stood in line for hours waiting for ballots to arrive. Dedicated poll workers arrived on time and attempted to calm crowds angry over delayed poll openings. However,



A woman casts her ballot in Abuja.

the Nigerian government betrayed the trust of its people. As Andras Gyrurk stated, “It was obvious that neither the spirit of Nigerians who went to the polls to cast their ballots nor the dedication of the thousands of poll workers struggling to execute their responsibilities in polling stations throughout the country were matched by their leaders.”

In testimony on the elections to the U.S. House Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health, IRI President Lorne Craner recalled what he had heard from Nigerian voters, “What we cannot forget is that this matters to the Nigerian people, who implored our election observers to tell the truth, in the hope that their government would pay greater attention to our words than they had to theirs.”

Craner went on to say, “As Nigerians move forward, newly sworn in President Umaru Yar’Adua has an opportunity to turn his questionable victory into a great legacy. He can lead from the front and push electoral reform as the priority of his presidency. The next election will determine whether he is remembered as the man who stole his way to victory or the man who rescued Nigerian democracy.”

## 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

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President Reagan had on history. During a November 1978 visit to the Berlin Wall Reagan said, “We have to find a way to knock this thing down.” Nearly nine years later, to the cheers of thousands of Berliners, President Reagan challenged Soviet Premier Mikhail Gorbachev to “Tear down this wall.” Two years later the wall fell, signaling the end of the Soviet empire.



Ed Meese with IRI Board member Congressman David Dreier.

Mark Palmer called attention to how radical President Reagan’s ideas seemed at the time and how the President felt radical change was needed. “In many part of the world, even in the West, people then assumed socialism was the future... The purpose of this [Westminster] speech was to change that assumption. To proclaim and demonstrate that democracy and free enterprise were the future. And to thereby change the course of history.”

During his speech, Meese reflected on President Reagan’s belief in America’s values

and democracy. “He had an absolute belief...in the superiority of democracy and that is what he laid out in the [Westminster] speech.”

Meese then discussed President Reagan’s vision in dealing with communism. “He developed what has become known as the Reagan Doctrine...He first engaged the Soviet Union on a moral plane, to get away from this idea...that there was a moral equivalency between totalitarianism and freedom and democracy.”

Meese left the audience with some poignant thoughts on democracy. “Democracy cannot be imposed and it can’t be seen as being imposed. Democracy is not easy, it takes time and it takes patience. Democracy has different forms. Democracy is worth doing.”

President Reagan’s vision lives on in the work of the staff and volunteers of IRI. His call to “move toward a world in which all people are at last free to determine their own destiny,” is one that still engages “the faith and fortitude” of a generation.



Panelists discuss the development of President Reagan’s foreign policy and the creation of the National Endowment for Democracy. Pictured left to right are Mark Palmer, Richard Allen, Richard Williamson, Frank Fahrenkopf and Michael Samuels.

## Thousands of Cambodian Youth Attend IRI Youth Democracy Festivals



Youth participate in festival activities.

Involving the next generation of leaders in the political process is a key goal of IRI's work in Cambodia. To reach youth in small rural communities, who are often unable to access training programs, IRI and the Youth Council of Cambodia (YCC) joined together to host a series of Youth Democracy Festivals. The festivals have given Cambodian youth the opportunity to learn about politics, civics and public service.

Nearly 8,000 young people attended the Kampong Cham festival, which began with a marathon race, and included exhibition booths, seminars and interactive activities. Dozens of exhibitors, seminar presenters and interactive-program hosts offered

insight and ideas in areas ranging from democracy, information technology and human rights. Among the most popular booths were one conducting mock TV interviews and another holding a quiz contest on democracy and health.

The Battambang festival drew a crowd of nearly 4,000 and included interactive-programs on issues such as land-rights, AIDS prevention and broadcast journalism. One of the most popular interactive pavilions was the campaign central station, which engaged youth in mock campaigns and elections.

The festivals have engaged youth while offering educational opportunities,

and have provided them the chance to meet representatives from civil society, business and education institutions as well as to attend training sessions on topics such as advocacy and message development. In the evenings, the youth attend concerts by local artists and educational documentary screenings.

By providing fun and entertainment, IRI and YCC have reached nearly 12,000 Cambodian youth and have shown them that they have a role to play in Cambodia's future. Building on the success of the Kampong Cham and Battambang festivals, IRI and YCC are planning to hold more democracy events in 2007.

## Popular Reality Show Challenges Cambodian Youth

IRI and YCC produced an eight-episode television reality show, the Youth Leadership Challenge (YLC). Each episode divided participants into two groups to compete against each other in civil society-themed challenges. The show, which aired from January through March, gave teams two days to prepare for each challenge; challenges including fundraising for an orphanage, collecting



Two YLC teams compete by raising money in a text message drive. The money raised went to build a playground.

signatures for a petition drive and public speaking. Each week poor-performing teammates were eliminated with the "you go home now" Cambodian catchphrase. In the final episode, the two remaining challengers presented a speech at IRI's Youth Democracy Festival in Kampong Cham and the audience voted Hing Soksan the winner. Hing was awarded the grand prize of leadership training in the United States.

# Bolivia's Citizen Advisory Boards Keep Public Informed



A Bolivian woman takes part in a local advisory board meeting in El Alto.

As countries throughout Latin America continue to slide between socialist, populist and democratic forms of government, several administrations have resorted to rewriting constitutions to further their goals. IRI is working with citizens who are organizing to guarantee their involvement in the drafting process.

Bolivian President Evo Morales has supported efforts for constitutional reform. In June 2006, voters elected assembly members, with Morales' Movement for Socialism party receiving a simple majority, short of the two-thirds necessary to force passage of a new constitution. As a result, Bolivians

have established Citizen Advisory Boards, with the help of IRI, to take an active role in the constitutional redrafting process.

Through the boards, Bolivians receive monthly updates on the progress and deliberations of constituent members. With this information citizens are invited to take part in roundtable discussions on issues they deem important and to offer ideas for improving the debated legislation. These discussions are formulated into a working document and presented to the Constituent Assembly members in

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see **BOLIVIA**

## RESEARCH FACILITY

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parliamentarians and their staffs access to in-depth research on proposed legislation and policy proposals. In the drafting of a bill which would protect freedom of expression, the Research Directorate produced an analysis that incorporated a comparison of other countries' protections for free speech and press. Members were able to see how other countries had addressed this important issue. Another notable report written by the directorate, at the request of ICR members, was an analysis of legislation from several nations that addressed youth empowerment and rights. The work examined other countries' laws for their relevance to the Iraqi model.

The library of the Research Directorate serves not just as a research facility but also as an archive of important Middle Eastern and Iraqi books. IRI sponsored visits to book fairs throughout the Middle East so directorate staff could purchase important books for the collection, including works on human rights and the inner working of parliaments, giving ICR members access to diverse points of view.

The Research Directorate is a critical tool for Iraq's new government. Its facilities enable parliamentarians to do independent research on proposed legislation and policy proposals. This research adds valuable insight and new points of view to Iraq's democratic debate. Whether considering changes to the election law, how to distribute oil and other natural resources or how to ensure the status of women, the directorate gives Iraq's new parliament the tools to build a strong representative democracy.

## Romania's Road from Communism to Democracy



Volunteers hang posters urging people to vote in the 1996 parliamentary elections.

After the fall of communist dictator Nicolae Ceaucescu in December 1989, Romanians turned to the work of building a free, democratic country. The collapse of communism in Romania was marked by violence and a difficult economic and political transition. As Romania prepared for the first post-communist elections, IRI began a long-term effort to help new democratic parties and coalitions grow. However, the old communist elites remained in power until 1996, due to their institutional advantages and a weak and divided opposition. IRI helped opposition parties form the Democratic Convention, a coalition of centrist parties, which united to win the 1996 elections and elect a pro-reform president.

As the newly formed government took office, it immediately turned its attention to strengthening democratic institutions and practices. Success was seen in the management of government ministries and the strengthened role of parliament in policy-making.

With IRI's help, government officials and members of parliament received training on reaching out to constituents, established a code of ethics and crafted and implemented the country's first freedom of information law. IRI also began working with reformers on the left to help them build a modern, European social-democratic party.

Despite progress in many areas, voters ousted the deeply divided Democratic Convention in the 2000 elections. The left-of-center government was plagued by allegations of corruption. Over the next four years, Romania's political parties, with the help of IRI, focused on increasing government transparency and improving government accountability.

Critically, both the right and the left agreed on NATO and European Union membership as the country's top priorities. Romania's democratization efforts were recognized in 2002, when a date was set for its full NATO membership. In 2004, Romania joined

NATO, thus committing its resources to the mission of promoting freedom, security and stability throughout the region and beyond. That year also saw the return of the center-right to power in a new coalition government.

The start of the 2004-2008 parliamentary term saw IRI's efforts to help the government become more accessible to ordinary citizens. With the institute's support, the Pro-Democracy Association published *Cartea Albastra a Democratiei* (Blue Book of Democracy), a guide to the Romanian government. IRI also assisted legislators in organizing the first public hearings, granting the electorate greater opportunities to engage their leaders on public policy issues. These efforts have done much to overcome the disconnect that existed between elected officials and constituents.

In January 2007, the Romanian government's democratic and political maturation was affirmed through its full membership in the European Union. Seventeen years after a violent revolution, Romanians have rebuilt their country, established a thriving democracy and joined the community of free nations. IRI now works in partnership with Romanians, who have lent their experience to other nations in Eurasia and the Middle East. IRI is proud to have contributed to this transition and will continue to work with Romanians as their country grows into a vibrant and prosperous democracy.



# Democratic Reforms Continue in Georgia

In November 2003, the people of Georgia took to the streets in a historic protest over falsified parliamentary elections in what is now called the Rose Revolution. Almost four years later, the new government, led by President Mikhail Saakashvili, continues to enact meaningful democratic reforms that have made Georgia a leader in democratization efforts in the region.

During 2006, Georgia held its first ever nationwide school board elections, which gave communities

a voice in the future education of their children. Additionally, on October 5, 2006, the country held nationwide regional municipal elections as well as elected the mayor of Tbilisi, the capital. These elections helped further institutionalize democratic practices in Georgia and continued to build upon the success of the Rose Revolution.

The government of Georgia has also tackled the issue of corruption and widespread use of bribery. These efforts at combating corruption also extend to

reforms in the customs bureau, improvements in transparency and private property rights, which have enhanced Georgia's reputation for Western investors. Most recently, the World Bank ranked Georgia as 37<sup>th</sup> on a worldwide list for *Ease of Doing Business* in 2006, compared with 113<sup>th</sup> in 2005.

These successes have been carried out against the backdrop of numerous actions by Georgia's northern neighbor, Russia. Despite border closings, an embargo on Georgia's wine industry and continued

territorial disputes in Abkhazia and South Ossetia, Georgia has continued to carry out positive democratic reforms.

Georgia is now looking to the Fall 2008 presidential and parliamentary elections to demonstrate even greater democratic advances. These elections will be another exercise of Georgia's commitment to democratic principles and give the Georgian people the opportunity to once again chart their country's future.

## BOLIVIA

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Sucre, the capitol of Bolivia, at the end of each month.

Although there has been limited success in achieving real citizen input into the

redrafting process, IRI has worked closely with members of the Citizen Advisory Boards to enhance the validity of the final document. The boards have offered Bolivians an opportunity to take part in the reformation of their

country's constitution.

As the Constituent Assembly nears completion, IRI will continue its work with the Citizen Advisory Boards in their effort to participate in reforming their country's constitution.

And as other leaders look to rewriting constitutions as a way to solidify power, people can look to the citizens of Bolivia, and their efforts, as a way to demand their voices be heard.



Citizens meet in Sucre to discuss the constitution.

## IRI Hosts Democracy Leaders

El Salvadoran President **Antonio Saca** visited Washington, D.C. June 11-12, to discuss a broad range of bilateral issues with Members of Congress, highlighting the importance of his country's March 2009 presidential election. During his visit, President Saca met with IRI President Lorne Craner.



Vice Chairman of IRI's board, **Peter Madigan**, welcomes President Saca to IRI.

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IRI hosted five **Ugandan Members of Parliament** who are active on disabilities issues on a study tour to Washington, D.C., Minneapolis and St. Paul from June 2-16. The members learned how advocates in the U.S. raise awareness and address disability issues.

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Representatives from IRI, the National Democratic Institute and the **Konrad Adenauer Stiftung Foundation** met in Washington, D.C. May 26-25, at a colloquium entitled, *The Challenges of Promoting*

Democracy in Latin America. Participants shared experiences on challenges to strengthening civil society and ensuring citizens can fully participate in the decisions of their governments.

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More than a **dozen ambassadors** and other government representatives learned about IRI's Women's Democracy Network (WDN) at a luncheon on May 16. The diplomats heard about the ideas behind the establishment of IRI, current IRI programming and the goals and mission of the WDN.

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IRI and the **Institute for Politics, Democracy and the Internet** at the Graduate School of Political Management at **The George Washington University** co-hosted a conference, *Strengthening Democracy: Analyzing the Role of Influentials*, on May 1, 2007. The conference considered how the concept of influentials operates in developing democracies and what international assistance can do to help strengthen the skills of pro-democratic voices around the world.

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From April 23-27, IRI hosted **Lebanese Ministers of Parliament and Colombian Representatives and Senators** for a training with the House

**Democracy Assistance Commission**. During the training they discussed U.S. political structures and discussed IRI programming.

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IRI hosted U.S. and European democracy promotion experts, including **National Endowment for Democracy President Carl Gershman** and **Vice President of the European Parliament Edward McMillan-Scott**, at a conference in Bratislava, Slovakia, March 23-24. The conference reviewed U.S. and European Union engagement on democracy and human



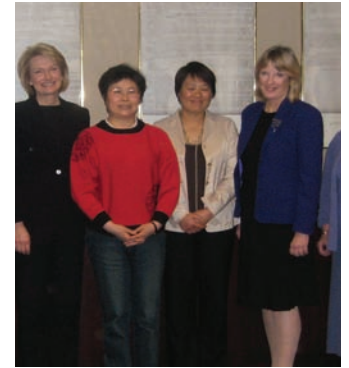
**Carl Gershman** speaks about democracy and human rights.

rights promotion.

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During her official visit to the U.S. in March, **Speaker of the Parliament of Georgia Nino Burjanadze** met with Lorne Craner and Judy Van Rest. That meeting was followed by another in Tbilisi, Georgia with **Stephen Nix**, Director of IRI's Eurasia program.

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**Gahl Hodges Burt, Xie Lihua, Guo Jiamei and Alison Fortier**.

On March 16, IRI Board members **Gahl Hodges Burt** and **Alison Fortier** met with **Xie Lihua** of the **Beijing Cultural Development Center for Rural Women** and **Ms. Guo Jianmei** of the **Center for Women's Law Studies and Legal Aid at Beijing University** at a Washington, D.C. luncheon. The guests discussed their

On June 8, IRI Executive Vice President **Judy Van Rest** traveled as part of the **White House's Presidential Delegation to Bamako, Mali** to attend the **Presidential Inauguration of His Excellency Amadou Toumani Toure, President of the Republic of Mali**.



**President Amadou Toumani Toure (right)** greets dignitaries during his swearing-in.

efforts to increase women's political participation in China and to raise awareness of gender discrimination and women's rights.

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On March 6, the **Honorable Frances Fragos Townsend, Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and Counterterrorism**, gave the opening address at the first anniversary conference of the WDN. The conference coincided with International Women's Day on March 8.

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IRI hosted **leaders of the Unified Democratic Forces in Belarus** from February 26-March 2. The delegation traveled to Washington, D.C. to discuss their vision for Belarus. They met with members of congress, administration officials and members of the media. They also spoke at a forum hosted at IRI, "Belarus in the Post-Election Period: Where Do We Go From Here?"

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On February 26, **former Prime Minister of Pakistan Benazir Bhutto** met with Lorne Craner to discuss upcoming parliamentary elections, sharing her ideas for reform in such areas as the economy and women's rights. The exiled party leader said she would return to Pakistan to contest the elections planned for late 2007 or early 2008.

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## Democracy's Heroes: Raquel Munt & Gladys Gonzalez

**R**aquel Munt and Gladys Gonzalez are blazing the trail to greater political leadership for women in Argentina. Members of *Compromiso para el Cambio* (CPC or Commitment to Change), a center-right political party in Argentina that is dominant in Buenos Aires, Gonzalez and Munt entered politics with a desire to help their communities and in the process discovered a true talent in encouraging women to participate in public life.

In August 2006, both were nominated by their party to attend the first Latin America and Caribbean regional conference of IRI's Women's Democracy Network, which provides training and networking opportunities to aspiring and accomplished women leaders around the world. From that meeting, Gonzalez and Munt were inspired to carry on the mission of the network in their own country. Gonzalez states, "Upon returning to our country, not only did we want to share everything we learned and experienced with women from the network, but we also wanted to take concrete action on the commitment that we made during the conference."

With the help of IRI and the *Fundación Creer y Crecer* (The Believe and Grow Foundation), Gonzalez and Munt developed the CPC Political Leadership Training School in Argentina, which prepares women for political leadership through an eight-part seminar entitled, *Entre lo Femenino y la Politica* (Between the Feminine and Politics). The CPC school addresses issues such as the value of women in public life, women's leadership and strategic planning and management for women in politics.



**Raquel Munt (left) and Gladys Gonzales (right)**

Despite a history of dictatorship and a culture with traditional views on gender roles, hundreds participated in the first series, which took place during the winter of 2006.

The response from women involved with the CPC school has proven that the tide can change, particularly as women gain the skills and knowledge they need to break into politics. Munt hopes that the CPC school will "continue to raise awareness on the importance of women occupying decision-making positions and facilitating access to those levels of participation, in pursuit of improving the democratic quality of our institutions."

In addition to their duties with CPC, Gonzalez serves as director of the *Banco Ciudad* (City Bank) of Buenos Aires and Munt as advisor to the Commission on the Protection and Use of Public Space for the Buenos Aires Legislature.

## U.S. Senate Confirms IRI President & Executive Vice President

**Lorne Craner**, President of IRI, was confirmed by the Senate as a member of the Board of Directors of the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC). MCC is a U.S. government corporation based on the principle that aid is most effective when it reinforces good governance, economic freedom and investments in people. MCC's mission is to reduce global poverty through the promotion of sustainable economic growth.

**Judy Van Rest**, Executive Vice President of IRI, was confirmed by the Senate as a member of the Board of Directors of the United States Institute of Peace (USIP). USIP is an independent, nonpartisan, national institution established and funded by Congress. Its goals are to help prevent and resolve violent conflicts, promote post-conflict stability and development, and increase peace building capacity, tools and intellectual capital worldwide.

## IRI Welcomes and Congratulates...

**Barbara Broomell** took on the role of Deputy Director for IRI's Women's Democracy Network in June 2007. She previously served as IRI's Resident Country Director for

Bosnia and Herzegovina. Barbara has also served as Resident Program Officer for Romania and Assistant Program Officer for IRI programs in Ukraine and Belarus.

The International Republican Institute (IRI) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing democracy worldwide.

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