

CIDA cuts and delays hurt aid programs • Des femmes prennent le volant à Riyad

The

Canada's magazine on global rights and justice

Upstream Journal

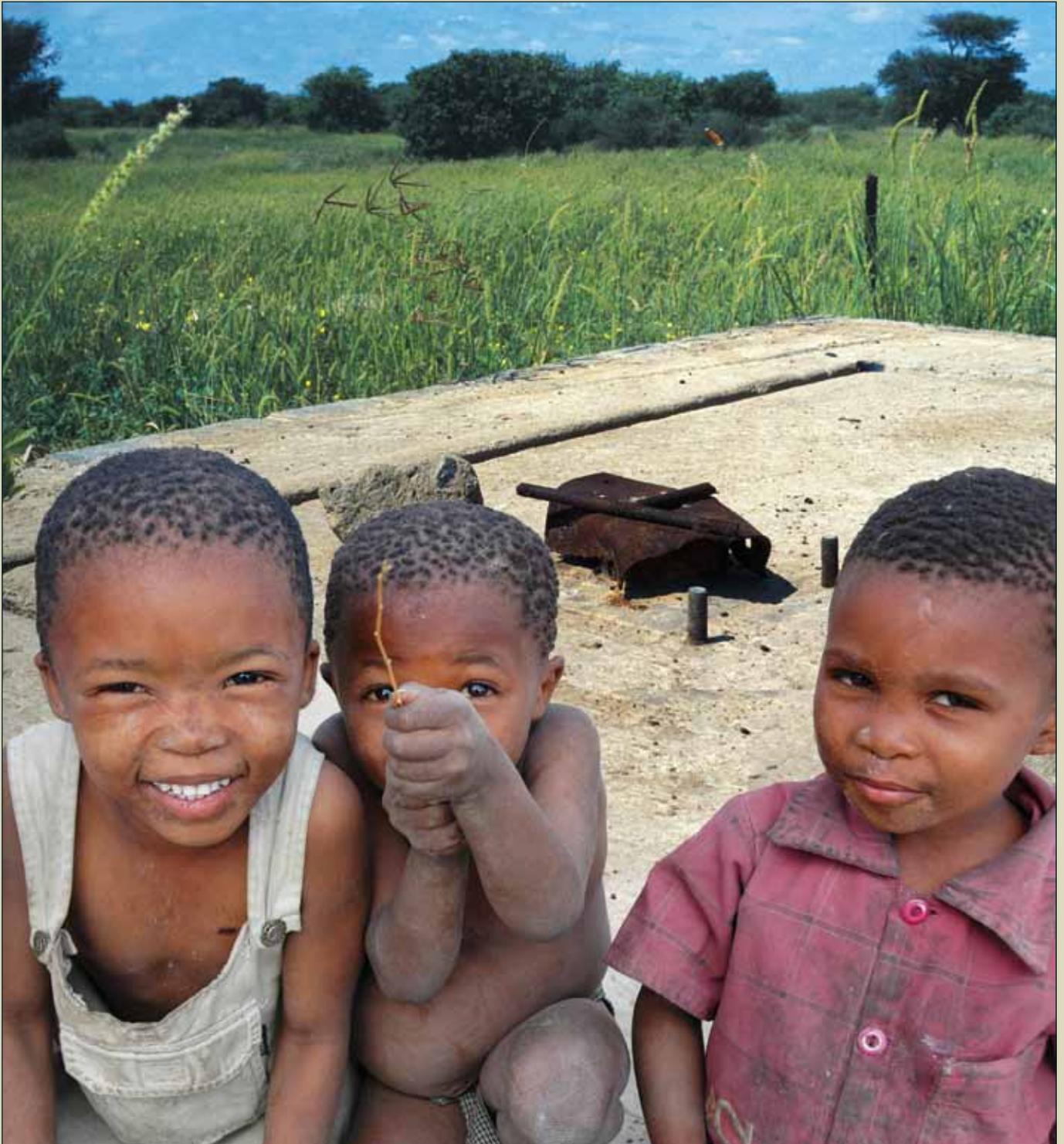
Working for a
better world
A career in
international
justice

Chaining the
mentally ill

Kalahari Bushmen
Their fight to return home

The jailing of Afghan women

Fairtrade gold -
ethical, ecological, local



Bushmen children in the Central Kalahari Game Reserve, Botswana, pictured here in front of a water borehole that was capped by the government nine years ago. Water was made inaccessible, and hunting illegal, as the government encouraged development of tourism and mining in the natural reserve and forced the Bushmen out. The borehole was recently re-opened, following a court victory by the Bushmen. Photos courtesy of Survival International. Editor's note: This image is a composite of two photos - one of the capped borehole and one of children from the community that could no longer live there. Check the inside back cover for another photo - this time with children actually at the re-opened borehole.

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Cover: Gana Bushman at Molapo in the Central Kalahari Game Reserve, Botswana. Photo: Fiona Watson/Survival International



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Dear readers,

Our cover story this time is about indigenous people of the Kalahari, and their fight for recognition and protection of their rights. They want to live in their traditional territory, and the government wants them out so it can pursue tourism and mining opportunities. As is often the case, mining interests are competing with the rights of indigenous people.

So what are we to make of the government funding partnerships between development groups and mining companies, and human rights considerations are not included? Indeed, none of the development groups has shown any interest in the rights of indigenous people.

CIDA has committed \$5.7 million to partners IAMGOLD and Plan Canada for “one of the largest public-private partnerships with an extractive company in CIDA’s history,” as IAMGOLD’s press statement says. CIDA is also giving about half a million dollars each to two other projects that have World University Service of Canada (WUSC) partnered with Rio Tinto Alcan and World Vision Canada with Barrick Gold.

Other NGOs are concerned that Canadian foreign aid policy will continue to emphasize private sector engagement in extractive industries, and that resource-rich countries can expect more attention – and money – from CIDA in the years to come, at the expense of aid programs elsewhere.

According to the most recent financial statements provided to Revenue Canada, these three groups were already getting serious funding from the federal government - Plan International Canada got \$6.4 million, World Vision Canada \$13 million and WUSC \$12 million. Other NGOs aren’t doing as well (see “Eye on Ottawa,” page 23).

In a joint response to media reports that questioned the ethics of this funding, the three NGOs claimed to have an expertise that will ensure “maximum benefits” from their engagement with mining companies. “As long-term partners of local communities and governments in such countries, WUSC, World Vision, and Plan are sharing well-developed best practices with mining companies and local developing country governments. Moreover, by engaging mining companies at the highest levels, we are working to help raise the bar on corporate social responsibility standards for future mining operations.”

What “best practice” did they mean? The bar has already been raised on corporate social responsibility, with the growing acceptance of the need for “free, prior and informed consent” of local indigenous people before mining operations can begin, for example. Recently adopted as policy by the private sector division of the World Bank, this concept is being expanded by the UN as part of its program to safeguard forests. The requirement of consent – not just consultation – reflects the progress of rights-based development thinking that puts local people first, and is the result of years of campaigning by human rights organizations.

Yet searches of the three NGO web sites show no references to the need for this consent whatsoever. Indeed, their web sites have nothing to say about the rights of indigenous people at all, despite numerous examples of tension, conflict and rights violations when mining takes place in their communities.

As the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous people described in his 2011 report, “The growing awareness of the impact of extractive industries on the rights of indigenous peoples is further raised by the concerns expressed... that these projects and industries are becoming the greatest challenges to the exercise of the rights of indigenous peoples. This situation is further evidenced by the lack of understanding of basic minimum standards on the effects of extractive industries affecting indigenous peoples and about the role and responsibility of the State to ensure protection of their rights.”

Will the millions of dollars CIDA is giving these NGOs really be a help to communities facing the “greatest challenges” to their rights? The experience of the Bushmen is an example of what happens when those rights are ignored.



Derek MacCuish 1-514-933-6797 editor@upstreamjournal.org

Kalahari Bushmen fight to return home



BY SARA ESPINAL HENAO

The lives of the Bushmen of Botswana changed dramatically thirty years ago with the discovery of more than three billion dollars' worth of diamonds in the Kalahari Desert. Their home, now part of the Kalahari Reserve, is in the middle of the richest diamond producing area in the world.

Authorities began relocating the Bushmen into settlements outside the Central Kalahari, arguing that the Bushmen were depleting the reserve's natural resources, that their lifestyle was no longer consistent with the developmental objectives of the reserve, and that it was cost-inefficient for the government to provide services to the community.

The government said that these relocations were voluntary and occurred only after consultations and public meetings. However, when UN Special

Rapporteur James Anaya investigated the situation he concluded that the experiences of the Bushmen show otherwise. In practice, he says, people were virtually forced out of their land by government authorities in three clearances.

This is also the view of Jumanda Gakelebone, a Bushman activist and member of the grass-roots advocacy organization First People of the Kalahari.

When I reached him by telephone in Botswana, he described the lack of options his people were given. "If you come and tell people that they have to move, you're not giving them an option. You're telling them where you want them to go. The Bushmen of the Central Kalahari were given a certain period to move. And the trucks started coming and loading them out of the reserve. Authorities were not going to give them services unless they moved to the resettlement camps. They were pushed. They were forced."

According to Anaya and Gakelebone, the government stopped providing food rations, health

The Bushmen are the indigenous people of Southern Africa. Having once occupied the whole region, just 100,000 remain today in Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Angola.

The Central Kalahari Game Reserve in Botswana was established by the government in 1961 "to protect wildlife resources and reserve sufficient land for traditional use by hunter-gatherer communities of the Central Kalahari." It is the traditional territory of 5,000 Gana, Gwi and Tsila Bushmen (and their neighbours the Bakgalagadi).



Bushman woman in the Kalahari Game Reserve grinding melon seeds for soup. Photo: Survival International

services and schooling. People were trucked away, their homes dismantled and their livestock confiscated. The government forbade them to hunt in the reserve without a license, but then did not issue any.

Most importantly, the government capped the Mothomelo borehole, which provided the Bushmen with water, and removed the borehole's pump.

Two hundred and thirty-nine Bushmen joined in taking the government to court in 2002. Four years later they won the right to return, but little actually changed. Although the court ruling allowed the Bushmen to return home, only those named as plaintiffs in the court case were allowed back. The government said that the ruling did not compel it to allow access to water, and kept the hunting restrictions in place.

Without access to food and water in their reserve, many of the Bushmen stay in resettlement camps. Those that try to live in the reserve depend on erratic rains, melons, roots, and rain-filled depressions in the sand that they call "pans" for water.

Getting water can mean a journey by foot of about forty kilometers to the nearest source. In the dry season, water-supplying vegetation and pans are scarce, and the Bushmen risk death by starvation and thirst.

For those in resettlement camps, where the government provides daily subsistence, life is not significantly better. Survival International, a UK organization that advocates for tribal peoples' rights worldwide, says that an overwhelming number of Bushmen would rather go back to their land.

"The people in resettlement camps are depressed. They're bored. They turn to alcohol. In the camps they live on handouts from the government. They just sit there every day waiting for food," Survival International spokesperson Fiona Watson said. "Putting these people in resettlement camps destroys them. Imagine what that does to their pride and sense of dignity and self worth. The government justifies its conduct by saying that it is trying to bring development to the Bushmen. This sort of development is appalling."

"The government can't make them like depending on handouts," Gakelebone said. "They are used to living by themselves. That's why they like being in the reserve. Because they can go hunting, they can find food themselves, they can feed their families."

In the eyes of the Bushmen, two companies in particular - Gem Diamonds and Wildlife Safaris - are intruders in their land, running operations for which Bushmen did not give their approval, and

they were not informed about the impacts of these economic projects on their lives.

GEM DIAMONDS

The Bushmen's situation grew more uncertain at the beginning of 2011, when Botswana's government green-lighted the exploitation of the reserve's Gope Deposit by the British company Gem Diamonds.

Gem Diamonds claims it secured the consent of the Bushmen on whose lands the mine will be located. However, Survival International questions the level of transparency of these consultations, saying that the Bushmen were not given advice on what the likely impact of the mine would be, and many were living outside the reserve when the consultation was made.

"Many of the Bushmen who have the right to live in the central Kalahari Game Reserve had not exercised that right because of the problem of not having any water," Watson said. "These people could not be expected to sit down and negotiate with the company about developments on their land, given their position of weakness."

At the end of 2011, Gem re-opened the Mothomelo borehole, allowing access to water for the first time in nine years, and promised to provide another three boreholes.

WILDLIFE SAFARIS

The government also recently allowed Wildlife Safaris to open a tourist camp and a luxury lodge - with a swimming pool - in the north of the territory. Wilderness Safaris' position is that since the Central Kalahari Game Reserve is state land, the government has the right to decide what to do with it. However, according to Watson, neglecting to consult the Bushmen on whose lands the camp sits and whose lives would be affected de-legitimizes Wilderness Safaris' lease with the government.

Wilderness Safaris points out that water used for its swimming pool is unfit for consumption and is salty, and that the government

"When the evictions happened, we saw the trucks coming and saw people being loaded into the trucks. We did not get any warning. We just saw people, our family members, being put into the trucks. They just dumped us in New Xade and left us there

"I am very sad for what the government has done to us. They have separated families, and I get messages that my son is sick at New Xade, and I am scared to go and visit him because I will never be allowed to come back again, so I am afraid to visit my son."

"I know how to survive. The government services are bribery."

"Being given food is not good. You don't know how long that person is going to keep giving you food. We know this land, we know what to do. We would not know what to do in Kaudwane. In Kaudwane, if you don't have food, you have to go and beg the government for it. Here, if we are hungry, we all go out and find some food."

"We think we are developed. We survive on this land. I don't know what they mean by development. I want our culture to be respected."

- Quotes from the Bushman website
www.iwant2gohome.org



does not allow it to provide the Bushmen with water from the boreholes. As for the lack of consultation with local people, it says that this has never been the practice for any commercial operators in the area, and that its dealings are with the government.

James Anaya says that the government's decision to allow large economic projects exploit the reserve contradicts its stated concern with the Bushmen's non-conservationist treatment of the land.

"It is permitting an operation that is planned to last several decades and could involve an influx of 500-1200 people," he said. This has fueled suspicion about the real intentions of the government and its bias in favor of its "commercial protégées."

2011 COURT VICTORY

In January, 2011, Botswana's court of appeal ruled in favor of the Bushmen, declaring that they have the right to use the Mothomelo borehole and to dig new boreholes as needed.

Press Secretary to the President Jeff Ramsay refused to comment for this article, but referred me to a press statement. "The Botswana Government wishes to reiterate its commitment to improving the quality of life for all its citizens, as reflected in our well known policies that have been recognized internationally," it said. "While we do not agree with certain aspects of the basis on which the decision was reached, we recognize that this is a decision of Botswana's highest court from which there is no appeal. The Government of Botswana will, in line with its established policy of respect for the decisions of the Courts and the rule of law, facilitate implementation of the decision of the Court as reflected in the order."

Survival International is concerned about whether access to the Mothomelo borehole will be enough to allow the Bushmen to live as they did prior to their eviction. The court ruling did not touch on the right to hunt, or on the 2006 ruling that the government had the duty to provide the Bushmen with hunting licenses.

"Many of the Bushmen are very angry. They say these developments are happening on their land without them giving their consent. This is the moment for the government to just let them go. This is a chance not only to honor the 2010 ruling but also the 2006 ruling, with the intent of truly giving the Bushmen the possibility to live well on their land."

Sara Espinal Henao is in her last year of Political Science and International Development Studies at McGill. She plans to pursue graduate studies in international law.

Respond...

On their web site, www.iwant2gohome.org, the Bushmen ask for this assistance:

"We urgently need donations to pay for transporting people, their possessions and a regular supply of water back into the game reserve. We also urgently need funds to help those of us who have been arrested and charged just for hunting to feed our families." Contact fpkbotswana@fastmail.fm

To communicate with the Botswana government about the situation, contact the ambassador of the Republic of Botswana to the US and Canada, H.E. Ms. Tebelelo Seretse, in Washington DC.

Her email is seretse@botswanaembassy.org

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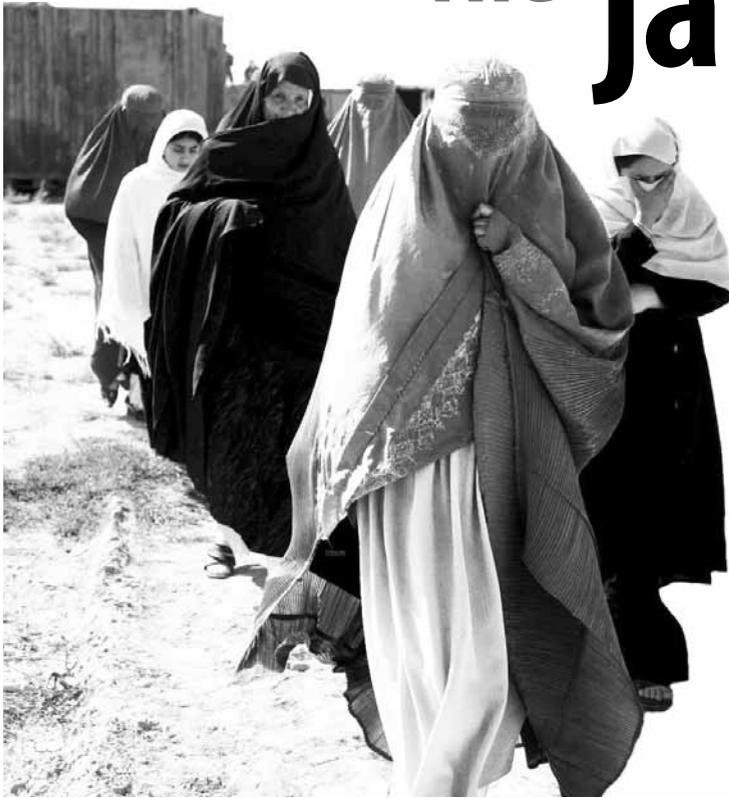
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The jailing of Afghan women

BY MARISSA CHAN-KENT



Once a woman in Afghanistan has been charged with a crime, she will most likely not see the inside of a courtroom nor attain justice otherwise, but will be thrown in jail, usually for crimes that aren't directly codified in Afghan law.

After imprisonment, she has little hope of re-integrating into her society and her options are few. Dishonored and ostracized from family and the community, some women seek asylum in an NGO-run shelter. Others die, either as an 'honour killing' by her family or by suicide. Some, in extreme desperation, douse themselves in gasoline and set themselves on fire.

There are 600 women in Afghan jails today – two percent of the prison population - according to the UN Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC). Half of them were found to have committed a 'moral crime,' a conservative interpretation of Sharia law in the Afghan Constitution. For many, their imprisonment stems from personal vendettas and their inability to seek legal aid. Eighty percent of rural women do not have basic literacy skills and are unaware of their constitutional rights. Women are even charged because of actions in which they are the victims.

Reintegration into society depends on the type of crime a woman commits. One traded into marriage as restitution for another person's crimes or a feud has a better chance of acceptance than one who escaped a forced marriage and/or violence, eloped or was accused of adultery.

For some women, however, prison can serve as an escape from domestic violence. More than 90% of women in the southeast regions of the country are in arranged marriages, according to the NGO Global

Photo: Women going to a community meeting in Bagram, Afghanistan. Courtesy ISAF Public Affairs

Rights. In rural areas, four out of five women experience physical and psychological violence. Women seek divorce mainly due to domestic abuse or forced marriages. Impoverished rural women are most likely to try to flee abuse. These women face tougher circumstances after release than urban women.

“A system in which women feel safer in prison than in their own home is indicative of the unequivocal failure of the state to protect women from harm,” a Global Rights report concluded in 2008, blaming pervasive corruption.

“MORAL CRIMES”

Women are most commonly charged with ‘moral crimes’ under Article 130 of the constitution, which states that in cases not covered by a specific law Hanafi jurisprudence can apply. This is a body of Sharia law that is often interpreted conservatively.

Moral crimes include having sex out of wedlock, running away from home, escaping from a forced marriage, eloping and rape, which is often considered adultery.

Decades of war has left the judicial system inadequate. Society relies on religious traditions for regulation, and individual interpretations of Sharia law are legally enabled through Afghan constitution.

“The law is translated by people with very limited experience and education,” director of the Vancouver chapter of Canadian Women for Afghan Women, Lauryn Oates, said. “It is dependent on their personal opinion.”

According to Medica Mondiale, a German NGO, “The judiciary is not seen as an institution

dedicated to the equal application of justice, nor one that upholds the rights of all citizens.”

Afghanistan committed to principles of gender equality and agreed to abolish discriminatory laws when it signed the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women in 2003. Equality of men and women was included in the 2004 constitution. In reality, however, these commitments are rarely honoured.

DIVORCE AND COMMUNITY COURT

Family honour is an integral part of Afghan identity. Women who pursue divorce are stigmatized and have lower social statuses. They rarely turn to authorities, for fear of being returned to their families or being wrongfully accused.

In a jirga or shura, a form of community court, a mullah with a conservative interpretation of Sharia law can even condone violence through Article 53 of the constitution, which allows a criminal act with good purpose.

The situation for women in Afghanistan is such that their suicide rate is higher than it is for men. “Divorced women are dishonored women,” Makai Aref, director of The Afghan Women’s Center in Montreal, said.

FINDING SHELTER IN PRISON

Jails like Pul-e-Charki are notorious for their terrible conditions and high incidences of rape and violence. In response, the UNODC, with financial support from the Italian government, created an improved women’s prison, Badam Bagh, that attempts to protect women from abuse and offers training and vocational skills.

“Jail can be a better option,” Lauryn Oates said. “They are very different from how we know them. The women often live communally, NGOs run literacy and tailoring courses, and there are playgrounds for children, libraries and general services they would otherwise not have access to. Some women can’t believe their luck that they live in these prisons because they have a better standard of living than the average Afghan.”

Islamic custom forbids women from living independently, yet communal prison life acclimatizes women to living together. This prepares them for transitional housing and potentially independent living. Clementine Malpas, who directed a film documentary on Kabul prisons, told me that although it still means imprisonment, this is a sanctuary for many.

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AFTER PRISON

Going to prison means a loss of credibility in the family for any woman, and they may not be supported once released. Socially ostracized after leaving prison, many live in destitution, often resorting to prostitution. Some want to return to their families and husbands for protection and accompaniment, even though the risk of honour killing is high, but are rejected because of their criminal record or conviction for moral crimes. If a woman is accepted back, she becomes a burden on the family, which may relocate to avoid further indignation.

SEEKING SHELTER

One option now for some women post-release from prison is safe houses or shelters provided by NGOs with the help of local communities. Organizations such as Medica Mondiale, Women for Afghan Women, Voice of Women, and Humanitarian Assistance for Women and Children in Afghanistan have created more than a dozen shelters across Afghanistan.

Women's shelters provide safety as well as legal aid, vocational training and trauma counseling. The number of shelters has increased due to collaborative efforts of women's NGOs and local Afghan groups. Even so, they're overrun and cannot house the growing demand for sanctuary. Because of limited supplies, professionals, security and space, some NGOs like Humanitarian Assistance for Women and Children of Afghanistan restrict their services. Women with criminal records are the first to be cut because they're considered potentially dangerous.

Although shelters are necessary, they are a temporary solution. The women must eventually leave, and NGOs find it hard to monitor the safety of released women. A visit from social workers is a

reminder of the women's imprisonment, and may bring further shame to the family and violence upon the woman.

LONG TERM SOLUTIONS

In 2011 the UNODC partnered with NGOs and government ministries to create transitional houses for women leaving prison. They provide shelter, security, counseling and training but, unlike shelters, these aim for longer-term specialized solutions.

Women are trained to build entrepreneurial and financing skills. They work closely with financial staff and employment managers to establish relations with potential employers. Each woman receives an individualized client plan that establishes her needs, tracks her progress and organizes her money.

Residents are expected to work and contribute to household maintenance. "This voluntary work is a symbolic contribution of rent," UNODC spokesperson Jelena Bjelica said. "But no woman will be required to leave for failure to pay."

Re-unifying families is vital for women, Esther Hyneman, board member of Women for Afghan Women (WAW) told me. "WAW makes every effort to reintegrate women with their families because life in Afghanistan for a woman is completely centered on family. It's crucial for her." The UNODC and WAW opened two transitional houses and operates Family Guidance Centers that protect the rights of women and children in main urban areas. Since 2007 these centers have helped more than eighteen hundred families in crises.

THREATS TO REINTEGRATION AND EMPOWERMENT

The Karzai government recently attempted to take control of shelters under the auspices of the Ministry of Women's Affairs, claiming they were

Canadian government aid

A CIDA spokesperson said that because Afghanistan lies at the bottom of the Human Development Index and Gender Development Index, female empowerment and gender equality are pivotal to alleviating problems of health, education and standards of living.

CIDA does not have a specific program for post-imprisoned women, she said, but more broadly aims to improve education, health, and access to services for women. It has supported an advisor in the Afghan Ministry of the Interior with the aim of raising awareness among police about gender issues.

A CIDA project called "Women's Rights in Practice" works in partnership with the government agency Rights & Democracy to promote greater respect for women's legal rights on a community level. Over the past four years, \$5 million has been invested in providing legal aid and raising awareness, particularly in areas of family law and marriage contracts.

brothels and involved in drug rings.

The government has drafted regulations that would limit access to shelters. Women would be subjected to an application process, including virginity testing and medical examinations. Women's NGOs say that this process violates women's privacy and will deter them from seeking help. Those allowed would be unable to leave grounds without permission.

The UNODC recognizes the government's right to monitor its projects, and hopes that it will provide financial support for the houses. But women's NGOs told me they fear that if shelters are government run, corruption will deter international donors. "Out of a dozen shelters, there may be one that is unaccountable with its financial business, but most are very accountable and work off shoestring budgets." Oates says.

The main issue NGOs have with government control is a regulation requiring shelters to return women to whomever comes to take her. This is an outrage according to Esther Hyneman. "We have seen too many cases where other organizations have given women back and the woman ends up being murdered by her family. We will not send a woman to her death."

Hyneman says that it is essential that Canada continue its state building and development role in Afghanistan. Without these services and international pressure, dangerous policies will continue to destabilize the region. "When there is instability and people do not feel safe or hopeful for their future, disillusionment and frustration are acted out on the backs of women."

SIGNS OF PROGRESS

Women's organizations are optimistic about advances in gender equality, and shelters are seen as tangible evidence of improvement. "In a coun-

try which had no shelters for women ten years ago to having fourteen now is amazing progress," Hyneman said.

Education, vocational skills and access to housing are important elements of reintegration, according to Oates, empowering women by giving them options. "Women must have a choice, and be able to say no. This can lead to increased social acceptance of women living independently, a structural change that Afghanistan desperately needs."

Marissa Chan-Kent is studying political science and international development at McGill University. Her plans are to either attend law school in Canada or the UK or graduate studies in diplomatic relations and human rights in Malta, the Netherlands or Costa Rica, and then pursue a career with an international judicial organization.

Resources:

The Canadian Women for Afghan Women organization focuses on education, building literacy and access to schools and libraries. www.cw4wafghan.ca.

The New York-based organization Women for Afghan Women has helped create eight shelters and two transitional houses, and provides legal aid and services. www.womenforafghanwomen.org.

Respond...

To communicate with the government of Afghanistan, you can contact the representative to Canada:

Mr. Ershad Ahmadi, Chargé d'Affaires a.i. and Minister Counsellor
Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
240 Argyle Avenue
Ottawa ON K2P 1B9
email: e.ahmadi@afghanemb-canada.net

A 2011 global survey of experts by the Thomas Reuters Foundation rated Afghanistan is the most dangerous country in which to be a woman, because of the high maternal mortality, lack of economic rights, and level of violence against women. After Afghanistan, the experts polled said that the worst states for women are the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Pakistan, India and Somalia.

Life as a woman in Afghanistan is most recently described in a memoir by Nadene Ghouri, "The Favored Daughter: One Woman's Fight to Lead Afghanistan into the Future," published in January 2012. Despite abuse by her family, the hardship of the Russian and Taliban regimes, the murders of her father, brother and husband, and numerous attempts on her life, she became a member of parliament and a candidate in Afghanistan's presidential elections in 2014.

The story of women in Afghan prison is the subject of the 2011 HBO documentary *Love Crimes of Kabul*. "Director Tanaz Eshaghian was granted rare access inside Badam Bagh, where she follows each woman's case to trial, giving a voice to women who are seen by their families, the courts, and Afghan society largely in terms of blame and embarrassment."

Chaining the mentally ill

BY ZOYA ALEEM

Across the islands of Indonesia, people commonly use iron shackles, wooden stocks and rope to restrain individuals with mental illnesses. This is known as *pasung*, and includes physical restraints and confinement.

Many nurses and mental health workers chain patients or place patients in seclusion rooms to establish a sense of order in hospitals. Fearing a family member with a mental illness, families use similar practices at home, often in emulation of the professionals in the hospitals.

Such treatment compromises the health of the mentally ill, argues Dr. Soumitra Pathare, a psychiatrist in Pune, India, and expert in human rights law and mental health. He has assisted several countries, including Indonesia, develop mental health policy and law.

“Seclusion rooms do not get seen or talked about because the practice is not as obvious as chaining, but they create a sensory deprived world, which is more common, and equally harmful. Imagine spending twenty years in a room or a ward where there is no sensory stimulation, nothing to do, no activities. You’d go mad.”

The media typically blames health professionals and families in these situations, overlooking the lack of affordable care in resource-poor countries like Indonesia.

“*Pasung* is the result of a complex situation, like the availability of services, especially mental health services. By availability, I mean not only the services but also whether they are affordable and reachable,” said Dr. Albert Maramis, a psychiatrist based in Jakarta.

“Many people in developed countries, includ-

ing most reporters, see *pasung* as a violation of human rights, torture, or cruelty. However, the problem with chaining mentally ill people is not as simple as a violation of human rights. In fact, accusing those who are using *pasung*, mainly the family, is not helping much at all.”

Providing widespread access to health care is difficult in a country as large as Indonesia, with its population of over 254 million people. The health budget is 2.4% of the GDP, according to the World Health Organization. (By comparison, it is 10% in Canada; the world average is 8.5%).

The country spends 1% of its health budget on mental health. Even then, most mental hospitals in Indonesia are located at the capitals of provinces. For those living in poor, remote areas, reaching these hospitals becomes difficult. Travel costs often



A mentally ill boy is held by restraints as a precaution against him turning violent, Dhaka, Bangladesh. Photo: Manoocher Deghati/IRIN

exceed a family's financial capabilities. It can take several difficult days for mental health patients to reach a mental health services.

The limited services that do exist lack the financial and human resources to function adequately. Mental hospitals are in poor condition, lacking staff, medications and equipment.

Panti Bina Laras Cipayung, for example, is a mental health centre in East Jakarta. With more than 300 inmates, the center is beyond its capacity. Authors of a report on the hospital found patients

living in poor conditions, most naked. Some were chained to window bars, others emaciated and lying on the ground in their own excrement. A doctor visits once a week for two to three hours.

“So many of these hospitals that exist don't help people get better at all,” Pathare told me. “*Pasung* becomes a response to the fear. It reflects society's unspoken fears as opposed to the reality. This fear leads to diagnosis and treatment that is more harmful than helpful for the individual. If the community has the presumption that you look dangerous, you may get chained. Often, any violence that starts is provoked by something - harassment, ridicule, treatment as inferior people - and the anger is seen as threatening and scary, and used as a justification to chain people.”

At the same time, he says, families are seen as the villains. “Yet in reality, in most countries, it is the families that carry the burden of mentally ill people, with very little support from services.”

In response to these challenges, the WHO launched the “Chain-Free Initiative” in Somalia and Afghanistan in 2006. Its objectives were chain-free hospitals and minimal use of restraints, chain-free homes



A private clinic in Hargeisa, Somaliland. Photo: Robin Hammond, featured in Freedom to Create.

Not a priority for governments

Dr. Cassandra Philips, a spokesperson for Disability Peoples' International, has worked in Haiti for five years helping children with disabilities. She discussed the importance of countering a fear for the mentally ill by training staff in hospitals and teaching families how to communicate with a family member with a mental illness.

“It is important to teach families how to play and communicate with a child who is nonverbal. Many times a child with a disability is put in an orphanage or left to die on the streets. We need to teach how to look after them, and in the process start removing the stigma.”

Efforts on the ground are hampered by the lack of effort at the governmental level. Many countries have not yet adopted mental health policies. According to Philips, the reconstruction plan in Haiti did not include strategies in helping more vulnerable groups in Haiti, including the mentally ill.

Negligence of mental health occurs not only in resource-poor countries. In Canada, 4.8% of the total health budget is spent on mental health. Philips noted that conditions in a mental hospital in Edmonton, Alberta were “very deplorable, inhuman, and degrading.”

Mental health is not a priority throughout most of the world, and experts agree that they cannot rely on a top-down approach to improve conditions for the mentally ill, especially in resource-poor countries.

and families with psycho-education, and eventually the removal of the social stigma of mental illness.

“These phases work towards removing stigma and realizing the dignity and rights of those with mental illness at the community level,” said the WHO’s regional advisor for the Eastern Mediterranean, Mohammad Taghi Yasamy. But the initiative’s progress is slow, because of budget constraints and staff shortages.

Maramis said, “The best way to bring about change is not by preaching, or by lecturing. It is not by distributing leaflets or brochures, but by

proving that this condition is treatable. It is important to show the family the condition before the treatment and then the condition after the treatment. So they can see the improvement. So they understand that this is an illness then.”

Zoya is studying international development and economics at McGill University, with an interest in global health, health economics and economic development. She interned with the Futures Group in Washington, DC, in 2011 as part of its Policy and Advocacy Program.



Freedom to Create

“Launched in 2008, the Freedom to Create Prize is a celebration of the courage and creativity of artists, and the positive influence of their work to promote social justice and inspire the human spirit. The Prize is open to all forms of art, in any creative field and to any individual or group of any gender, religion or nationality.

A total prize fund of US\$100,000 is awarded to the winning artists and their nominated advocacy organisations to further the cause their artwork has highlighted. In 2011, we have received over 2000 prize entries from more than 145 countries around the globe.”

The Freedom to Create prize will be featured in the next issue of the Upstream Journal.

“Freedom to Create” featured the photography of Robin Hammond, and his collection of images called *Condemned – Mental Health in African Countries in Crisis*. “His work exposes for the first time the plight of one of the most vulnerable groups in Africa, and he went through great personal risk to capture these images of their suffering.”

Mental illness in the world

“We are facing a global human rights emergency in mental health.” The World Health Organisation says that mental and neurological disorders are the leading cause of ill health and disability worldwide

Less than 1% of most countries’ healthcare budgets goes to treating mental health problems.

In 2008 WHO launched the Mental Health Gap Action Programme to advocate mental health policies. Its starting point is the recognition that “mental, neurological, and substance use disorders are common in all regions of the world, affecting every community and age group across all income countries. While 14% of the global burden of disease is attributed to these disorders, most of the people affected - 75% in many low-income countries - do not have access to the treatment they need.”

People with mental disabilities are subject to high levels of stigma, physical and sexual abuse, restrictions of political rights, human rights violations, significant barriers in attending school.

Up to 20% of those attending primary health care in developing countries suffer from anxiety or depression – issues not often recognized by health workers.



Fairtrade gold

Ethical, ecological, local

BY Aparna Narayanan

“A wedding ring is the only ornament meant to be worn everyday for the rest of your life,” says Genevieve Ennis Hume, co-founder of Hume Atelier in Vancouver. Hume Atelier is a custom jewellery studio which sources all of its gold from fair-trade licensed artisanal and small mining communities.

Rings are often symbols of love and commitment, but people who buy and wear them are often unaware of the metal’s source and method of production.

The NGO Fairtrade UK estimates that 100 million people, from Asia and sub-Saharan Africa to Latin America, directly or indirectly depend on the artisanal and small-community mining sector for their livelihood. It is an industry characterized by poverty, child labour, environmental degradation, wage discrimination, and exploitation.

Will consumers pay a 10% premium for gold that is certified fair trade? Fair trade certification ensures direct relationships between retailers and their producers, who receive a 10% for their gold, plus an extra 5% if it is extracted without the use

of mercury and cyanide.

“The premium in the grander scale of things is pretty manageable, I think,” Hume said, but consumer awareness is relatively low. “The certification happened almost overnight, and even people engaged in fair trade or the mining industry are not aware of the recent initiative in fair-trade gold.”

Fairtrade International is an organization that sets international standards for fair trade products. Based in Germany, its goal is to “create opportunities for producers and workers who have been economically disadvantaged or marginalized by the conventional trading system.”

These standards were developed by the organizations Alliance for Responsible Mining (ARM), working in collaboration with the Fairtrade Labeling Organization (FLO), to promote women’s rights, environmental rights, and safe mining practices with the reduced use of toxic chemicals.

The Cotapata Cooperative mine in Bolivia, and Oro Verde in Colombia, are among the first to be licensed by the FLO. They are certified as ‘Fairmined,’ which assures buyers of the traceability of

the gold and compliance with the Fairtrade International standards.

The ARM was established in 2004 as a global initiative to promote environmental and socio-economic development in artisanal and small mining communities, through Fairmined-certified metals.

“Standard Zero” is the first global certification scheme for responsible mining. It is a set of principles and standards applied to artisanal gold, as well as silver and platinum. FLO launched these standards on the February 9th 2011. Consumers and fair-trade activists now wonder whether fair-trade mining will become a global movement, and if it will really empower the “poorest of the poor.”

“STANDARD ZERO”

Dr. Gavin Hilson, professor at the University of Reading, UK, disagrees. He says that small-scale mines differ with respect to the local environment, the politics, and the degree of poverty. “For starters,” he says, “if you go to a small mine in Guyana and a small mine in Ghana, they are completely different from a small mine in Mali. Given that their dynamics differ significantly, there is a need also to recognize that the standards we’re implementing are not being applied to different countries appropriately.”

Hilson studies the environmental and socio-economic impact of artisanal mining, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa, and natural resource conflicts in developing countries.

“It’s all about playing on the consumer’s conscience, and it’s unfortunate for the small guy in Africa. If you go to Ghana, or anywhere else in Sub-Saharan Africa, less than one percent of the small-scale miners are legal. If you go to the fair-trade website, they claim that fair-trade is all about helping the poorest of the poor. But if they are unable to help the majority of unlicensed miners, then it’s a contradiction from the beginning isn’t it? At the moment, these standards can empower very few small scale miners in this region.”

He says that the only way to make it a success-

ful global movement is to recognize the different regional mining constraints, instead of replicating the Latin American standards launched by Fairtrade International. This adaptation, he says, “should be based on the dynamics that are a product of the socio-political conditions of country in question.”

CONSUMER POWER

In 2010, retailers and consumers spent \$137.5 billion on gold jewelry. Consumers clearly have the choice and power to affect the supply chain of gold by investing in fair-trade certified gold.

Fairtrade UK has been at the forefront of this revolution in fairtrade mining, with a sister organi-



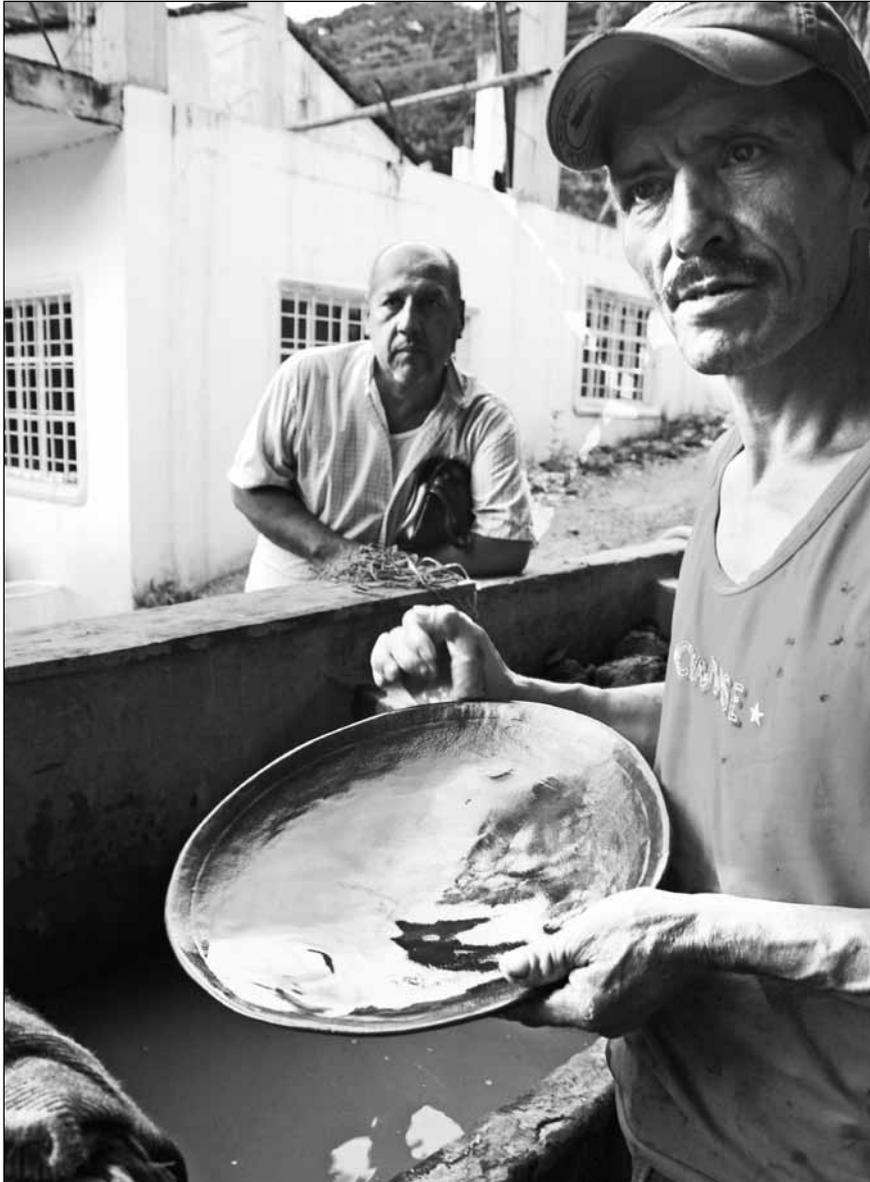
Crafting gold into jewelry. The Fairtrade Foundation estimates that around 50% of the global demand for gold is for the jewelry industry. Photo courtesy Hume Atelier.

zation in Canada. 20% of roast and ground coffee, and 20% of bananas sold in the UK are now Fairtrade certified. It has doubled in value every 2 years, with an estimated retail value of £493 millions in 2007, according to Fairtrade International.

Although consumers may doubt the transparency and accountability of the fair-trade market, and the degree of its impact in uplifting mining communities, “the real sustainability is the aware and empowered consumers,” Mark Abbott, public relations representative of Fairtrade Vancouver, told me. “Credibility will be a constant battle.

There is not a day in the foreseeable future where that challenge will be gone. Consumers must be aware of their powers or exercise it, whether it is gold or coffee. The trick is to build a movement that keeps pressing for change.”

Aparna Narayanan studies political science and English literature at McGill University.



Itinerant miners in Ecuador. Gold is the major mineral being mined on a small-scale in Ecuador; accounting for 60,000 of its 92,000 artisan and small-scale miners. Photo by Genevieve Ennis Hume

To purchase fairtrade gold, you can visit boutiques such as Hume Atelier in Vancouver (www.humeatelier.com), or Fairtrade Jewellery Co. in Toronto, North America's first registered fairtrade licensed jeweler (www.ftjco.com). For more information on fairtrade gold and mining standards, visit www.fairgold.org.

The Oro Verde, leader in eco-friendly, small-scale mining

Comprised of artisanal miners, the Oro Verde (“Green Gold”) program was created in 2000 to practice ethical and sustainable gold mining, long before the arrival of fairtrade mining standards. The Oro Verde creators and supporters also aim to strengthen the bargaining power and improve standards of living of small-scale miners.

It was the first local certification scheme in the world, using eco-friendly techniques to extract gold and platinum. The initiative is currently being implemented in cooperation with 12 Afro-Colombian communities, in the Choco Bioregion of Colombia.

Oro Verde communities joined others in 2004 to found the Alliance for Responsible Mining, which worked with the Fairtrade Foundation to set international standards for fairtrade and fairmined metals.

Oro Verde is now fairtrade certified, and is sold and internationally recognized under the “Oro Verde” trademark, providing customers with the promised traceability of fairmined metals.

Des femmes prennent le volant à Riyad

PAR TIMOTHÉE LABELLE

Le 22 mai dernier, Manal Al-Sharif, activiste saoudienne reconnue, prend le volant pour vaquer à ses activités quotidiennes. Elle est arrêtée dans les heures qui suivent, mais la vidéo de son court trajet prendra rapidement d'assaut les médias sociaux.

Moins d'un mois plus tard, une quarantaine de femmes roulent dans les rues de Riyad, la capitale. La campagne spontanée Women 2 Drive commençait, le dernier épisode d'une longue lutte pour la reconnaissance des droits des femmes saoudiennes. Bilan d'un combat de longue haleine pour des libertés fondamentales.

LES FEMMES ET LA MONARCHIE

À son arrivée au pouvoir en 2005, le roi Abdullah promet d'intégrer les femmes à la vie économique saoudienne. Il prend une série de mesures destinées à reconnaître certains droits aux femmes.

Il nomme Mme Nora bint Abdullah al-Fayez ministre de l'Éducation, la première femme à accéder à un poste au cabinet. Il ouvre aussi une université mixte, s'engage à prendre des mesures pour contrer la violence domestique et démarre un dialogue national sur l'égalité des sexes. En septembre dernier, le roi annonçait même que les femmes auraient le droit de voter aux élections régionales de 2015. Les groupes humanitaires demeurent toutefois sceptiques.

Yasmeen Hassan est directrice des programmes à Equality Now, une organisation internationale vouée à la lutte contre la discrimination et la violence faite aux femmes. «Les avancées dans le système gouvernemental et éducationnel ne concernent que les femmes les plus riches. Le roi se dit réformiste mais ne réforme qu'à très petite échelle,» dit-elle.

Entre autres, le système de supervision des femmes par les hommes demeure en place. Une femme a toujours besoin de l'accord de son frère, son mari ou même son fils pour voyager, aller à l'école ou



Même si l'interdiction de conduire est contestée depuis plus de vingt ans, c'est à l'été 2011, avec Manal Al-Sharif et la campagne Women 2 Drive, que la situation des femmes saoudiennes a attiré l'attention des médias internationaux. Manal Al-Sharif, photo par Abduljalil Alnasser.

se trouver un emploi

«Je n'ai vu aucune réforme significative», ajoute Mme Hassan. «S'il était un vrai réformiste, il y aurait eu des réformes. Ce pays est toujours au Moyen Âge pour ce qui est des droits des femmes».

LA LENTEUR DES RÉFORMES

Plusieurs facteurs sont évoqués par les organisations non-gouvernementales (ONG) pour expliquer la difficulté d'améliorer la situation de la femme saoudienne. Suad Abudayyeh, correspondante au Moyen-Orient pour plusieurs organismes, dont Equality Now, pointe du doigt le traditionalisme et le conservatisme social. «Le problème vient parfois des communautés. Les fondamentalistes islamistes sont réfractaires au changement et le Roi a peu d'influence sur eux. Il n'a pas réellement la volonté politique de les confronter».

Alia Hogben défend les droits des Canadiennes musulmanes en tant que directrice du Conseil canadien des femmes musulmanes. Elle souligne à quel point il est difficile de faire bouger les choses dans une société aussi profondément patriarcale que l'Arabie Saoudite. «Le Coran est clair au sujet de la subordination de la femme devant l'homme», dit-elle, «mais cette interprétation ne peut plus s'appliquer aujourd'hui».

Le système juridique saoudien est considéré comme un autre obstacle majeur à toute évolution des droits des femmes. Le droit saoudien est constitué du Coran et des décrets royaux. Dans la pratique, loin d'être neutre et objectif, le droit est dicté par des juges indépendants et libres d'interpréter le Coran comme bon leur semble.

«Les Saoudiens ont besoin de lois civiles. Chaque juge saoudien utilise sa propre perception. Les jugements diffèrent parfois en fonction des

régions du pays. Le pays a besoin d'une profonde refonte de son système légal,» dit Mme Hogben.

Les partisans d'une évolution du rôle de la femme saoudienne sont aussi confrontés à une barrière inattendue : la richesse du régime saoudien. Provenant essentiellement de la vente de pétrole (voir l'encadré La richesse pétrolière saoudienne), elle s'avère être une arme efficace contre les défenseurs des droits des femmes.

«Les évolutions sociales viennent des besoins, de la pauvreté. Or, le régime saoudien fournit un bon niveau de vie économique à sa population et s'il n'y a pas de besoin économique, le débat sur les droits et libertés ne démarre pas. C'est tout le développement humain qui en est ralenti à long terme,» dit Mme Hassan. «Le pétrole en Arabie Saoudite est un désavantage pour les femmes», ajoute-t-elle.

Les activistes avancent des solutions pour faire tomber ces difficultés. Outre les pressions internationales et l'action des ONG, Mme Hassan explique que le soutien public d'hommes politiques à la campagne Women 2 Drive, que plusieurs encouragent en privé, contribuerait à changer rapidement les mentalités. Ils demeurent malgré tout optimistes. Les évolutions du monde arabe donnent espoir à Mme Abudayyeh : «À cause des révolutions arabes, le peuple saoudien n'acceptera plus les mesures conservatrices ; les progressistes vont se rebeller. En fait, ils ont déjà commencé.»

Timothée Labelle est étudiant de deuxième année au Baccalauréat en relations internationales et droit international de l'Université du Québec à Montréal (UQÀM). Il a fait un stage au Upstream Journal à l'été 2011.

L'interdiction de conduire

Une loi proscrivant la conduite de véhicule pour les femmes existe en Arabie Saoudite depuis la création de l'État en 1932. Plusieurs ONG se sont rapidement insurgées contre cette mesure forçant les femmes à avoir recours aux services d'un chauffeur pour leurs déplacements, ce qui limite leur liberté de mouvement. Une première contestation de l'interdiction s'est produite en 1990 quand une vingtaine de femmes ont pris le volant à Riyad. Cette initiative n'a toutefois pas soulevé l'intérêt des médias internationaux.

En 2008 l'activiste féministe Wajeda al-Huwaider a une nouvelle fois forcé l'interdiction. Dans la foulée du printemps arabe, la campagne Women 2 Drive de l'été 2011, a remporté un certain succès attirant l'attention des gouvernements et des médias.

Info: www.equalitynow.org, www.ccmw.com

The state of emergency is over, but lack of justice and accountability continue

BY NATASHA SKRESLET

Claims of extrajudicial executions are not uncommon in Sri Lanka. The Asian Human Rights Commission has referred to a “constitutionally entrenched impunity” which plagues the small island nation just emerging from three decades of civil war.

From 1971 to 2011, Sri Lanka was under a state of emergency almost continually. Emergency regulations can override, amend, or suspend legislation, and permit detention without charge or trial for up to 18 months in a secret location. Human rights advocates say this facilitated human rights abuses like forced disappearances, torture and death in custody.

“The emergency regulations are a real concern because they introduce very broad categories of what constitutes terrorism, and erode the normal safeguards that would be in place when someone is detained,” Yolanda Foster, of Amnesty International’s South Asia team, told me.

Successive governments have used national security as justification for the introduction of a broad range of security legislation.

Sri Lanka also has a Prevention of Terrorism Act, which allows for the suspension of certain rights of criminal procedure, including that of being presumed innocent until proven guilty.

“The emergency regulations and the Prevention of Terrorism Act put all citizens of Sri Lanka at risk of arbitrary detention. But, because of the nature of the ethnic conflict, the security forces have predominantly targeted young Tamil men with these laws,” Foster said, who are especially subject to arbitrary arrest and detention.

What happened to one young man, “Saman”, is an example of how police operate, his brother told me. He died during an encounter with police, who also arrested his mother and sister, claiming that Saman was involved with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

Saman’s brother, Tharindu, is adamant about his innocence. “He was studying. He was not a member of the Tigers, I can assure you of that. Even the police report said that my mother and sister don’t know anything.”

The 2011 Amnesty International report “Forgotten Prisoners” quotes one lawyer as saying: “We in the legal profession don’t even know how many prisoners are on remand for crimes they didn’t



Tharindu, a Sri Lankan national of Tamil descent studying for his PhD at London’s King College, talking about his brother Saman’s death. In May 2009, he says, five State Intelligence Service officers arrived at the home his brother shared with their mother and sister in Colombo. The police report says that Saman jumped from the balcony of the family’s seventh floor apartment in an ill-fated attempt to escape during questioning. Neighbours say they saw police officers take Saman, his hands bound behind his back, out to the balcony and throw him over the railing. Photo: Natasha Skreslet

commit. Sometimes prisoners end up pleading guilty out of desperation, so they can put an end to the feeling of being in limbo.”

This is normal in Sri Lanka, Tharindu says. The lawyer representing Tharindu’s mother and sister presented them with a similar deal. The authorities could drag the case out for two, three, even five years, but if they plead guilty to the charges against them, there was the possibility that the sentence could be reduced to as low as four months. They refused.

The Supreme Court of Sri Lanka, in April, 2010, ruled that there was no evidence with which to hold them, and the Attorney General ordered the release of both women. However, they remained in detention because the Ministry of Defense refused to obey the release order.

“There are so many similar cases where the judgment is to release but the Ministry of Defense objects. The judiciary has no role in Sri Lanka,” says Vairamuttu Varadakumar, of the London-based Tamil Information Center. “The accountability is gone.”

“One of the challenges that Sri Lanka faces is that there are no independent institutions functioning,” Foster said. “And since the end of the war Sri Lanka has seen a concentration of executive authority.”

Defense Secretary Gotabaya Rajapaksa, is President Mahinda Rajapaksa’s brother. Two other brothers also hold high political

positions.

In practice this means that there is no institution with the authority to investigate human rights violations and prosecute offenders.

In 2011 emergency regulations were lifted, but other laws, like the Prevention of Terrorism Act, remain in force and allow the thousands of people currently detained, many without charge, to remain so.

The United Nations Refugee Agency reports that of more than 11,000 people arbitrarily detained in 2009, 6,000 remain in detention camps without access to lawyers or the Red Cross.

“They are trying to close the case in favour of the police,” Tharindu said. “If they release Gayani and Sachini and say nothing happened, then the question remains – why was my brother killed, and by whom?”

Natasha Skreslet has a masters degree in human rights from University College London, and lives in Geneva, Switzerland. Names and identifying information about some individuals have been changed.

“In 2011, accountability remained a dead issue, the media faced increasing censorship, and the long-standing grievances which led to the conflict were not seriously addressed. Sri Lankans face a lack of justice, weak rule of law, land grabbing, and a censored media from a government that is increasingly authoritarian.”

- Brad Adams, Asia director at Human Rights Watch

SRI LANKA Sri Lanka is ethnically, linguistically and religiously diverse. 74% of the people are Sinhalese, speak Sinhala and are Buddhist; 18 percent are Tamil, speak Tamil and are mostly Hindu; 7 percent are Muslim, and are largely Tamil-speaking; 1 percent belong to small ethnic communities.

THE CONFLICT In the wake of discriminatory state policies and anti-Tamil violence in the 1950s, the Tamil struggle for rights began as non-violent protests, giving rise to Tamil militancy and armed revolt by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), also known as the Tamil Tigers. In the civil war that followed, an estimated 80,000–100,000 people were killed. Between September 2008 and May 2009 the Sri Lanka army advanced its military campaign, trapping around 330,000 civilians in the conflict zone. The UN estimated as many as 40,000 civilian deaths between August 2008 to mid-May 2009, after which it became “too difficult to count.”

THE WHITE VANS In addition to regular military operations, the government employed clandestine operations to eliminate persons believed to be associated with the LTTE. A potent symbol of these operations was the “white van.” White vans were used to abduct and often make disappear not only those suspected of links with the LTTE but also critics of the government, human rights defenders, journalists and humanitarian workers. Those abducted were taken to secret locations, interrogated and tortured in a variety of ways, including beating, suffocation, partial drowning and electric shock. After the civil war ended, the white vans continued their operations, ostensibly shifting focus to drug trafficking but journalists say they too are targets.



Charities say lack of CIDA support and delays in funding are damaging international development efforts

25% of organizations say people are suffering and dying as programs scale back or close

Almost half of the 113 organizations that responded to a survey by the Canadian Council for International Cooperation say that delays and accompanying lack of project financing are slowing down or stopping project work in developing countries. 25% of those surveyed say that people are suffering or dying because urgently needed community development and health initiatives are not being provided.

42% say they have to restructure other programs, alter their overall budget, or draw on financial reserves to continue operating.

35% of organizations say funding delays have meant layoffs, delays in hiring, low morale, and employees quitting due to organizational uncertainty because of delays in getting CIDA funding commitments.

Almost 60% of organizations say their projects are being scaled back, shut down, or losing momentum and continuity, and 30% say that their international partners are in limbo while they wait for a decision from CIDA.

CIDA funds aid groups partnering with mining companies

In September, the Canadian government announced new development aid funding for pilot projects with three major development NGOs who have partnered with mining companies to provide social development projects.

World University Service of Canada (WUSC) is partnered with Rio Tinto Alcan, Plan Canada with IAMGOLD, and World Vision Canada with Barrick Gold.

The IMAGOL/Plan Canada project is the biggest, at \$7.6 million. IAMGOLD's press release about the funding says that "CIDA has approved funding of CDN\$5,654,980 to support this five-year project which was jointly proposed by Plan Canada and IAMGOLD. Together, Plan Canada and IAMGOLD have committed CDN\$1,919,830 to the project, which represents one of the

largest public-private partnerships with an extractive company in CIDA's history."

The WUSC/Rio Tinto Alcan project budget is \$928,000, of which CIDA is providing \$500,000. The World Vision/Barrick Gold project budget is \$1 million, of which CIDA is providing \$500,000.

Funds for a new institute for extractive industries and development

In October, the government announced it would create a Canadian International Institute for Extractive Industries and Development to "benefit partner countries by enhancing their capacity to manage their respective natural resources, including minerals, oil and gas." The institute is expected to be located at a university with a history of engagement in extractives, and to cost \$25 million.

NGOs face cuts, uncertainty in new CIDA funding process

More than 200 groups participated in a new, competitive process for CIDA funding. Weeks after its own deadline had passed, CIDA announced funding support for 53 groups.

The new funding process requires groups to respond to a call for proposals. This means that CIDA decides the priorities and criteria, rather than groups themselves designing their projects and seeking support.

In the 2011 competition, 50 groups sought funding of more than \$2 million. 41 were considered eligible, and 23 were approved (46% of the applicants). For funding under \$2 million, 167 groups applied, 116 were considered eligible, and 30 were approved (18% of the applicants).

The process frustrated many organizations with long-term relationships with CIDA who found themselves excluded from funding. Small groups are particularly affected, since they have less resources and capacity to respond to delays or loss of funding.

Some groups, such as the Christian faith-based group Kairos, were not surprised that, once again, they were denied funding. CIDA considers that funding Kairos would not be "good value for money."

It is not known when CIDA will issue the next call for proposals, or what the criteria will be, so groups are finding it increasingly difficult to plan and prepare their programs.

Respond:

Comments on Canadian aid policy can be sent to the Minister for International Cooperation, Bev Oda.

Mail: House of Commons, Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6
(no postage stamp necessary)

Email: Oda.B@parl.gc.ca



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MENNO SIMONS COLLEGE

Things we don't know

Examples of CIDA responses to Access to Information requests in 2011

- Requested: **The amount of CIDA spending on agriculture to small holders and to women producers.**

CIDA response: No records exists (sic)

- Requested: **Reviews that determine how all activities associated with the development and implementation of the Sustainable Economic Growth Strategy comply with the Official Development Assistance Accountability Act.***

CIDA response: No records exists (sic)

* This law requires that aid must contribute to poverty reduction, take the perspective of the poor into account, and promote human rights.

Did Canada vote in favour of the World Bank providing \$1.3 billion to Uzbekistan over the next three years, despite human rights abuse?

"More than a dozen human rights defenders and numerous journalists and political activists are languishing in prison in Uzbekistan because of their work. Torture and ill-treatment are systematic and widespread in pretrial detention and prisons, and the Uzbek government persistently refuses to allow domestic and international nongovernmental organizations to operate in the country." - from a 2011 letter from several human rights organizations, including Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International

The World Bank board of directors recently approved a large increase in the money it will send to Uzbekistan. The World Bank's Executive Director for Canada, Marie-Lucie Morin, did not respond when asked if she supported the funding or voiced concern about human rights. She can be contacted at mmorin@worldbank.org.



New energy strategy may be an improvement, but will it be enough?

BY DI MO

The World Bank is preparing a new energy sector strategy that it says will respond to the need to increase energy access for the poor while supporting the shift towards environmentally-sustainable development. To provide large energy supplies, the Bank continues to invest in oil, coal and fossil fuel-powered plants that have large environmental impacts, so its energy strategy is a concern for environmentalist groups.

Environmentalist NGOs note progressive steps in the latest draft, but are concerned with several aspects:

- the lack of clear screening procedures and requirements for projects to promote decentralized and environmentally sustainable projects,
- the lack of a clear definition of “clean energy,”
- the promotion of hydropower without appropriate guidelines.

POSITIVE STEPS

Athena Ronquillo-Ballesteros is the Project Manager of International Financial Flows and Environment Projects at the World Resources Institute (WRI), a think-tank working to build sustainable solutions to environmental issues. Commenting on the draft strategy, she said, “The emphasis on climate change as a driver is particularly notable. In previous years this was incorporated into policy

and planning. Today with the Strategic Framework on Development and Climate Change this has become an institution-wide imperative.”

If policies in the draft are implemented, the Bank will commit to:

- no new coal-power projects in middle and lower-middle income countries,
- Greenhouse gas emission analysis for all power generation projects,
- priority to be given to projects that increase fuel efficiency.

The draft continues to promote current Bank efforts to sustainably deliver energy to the poor, such as low-carbon cook stoves, renewables and energy-efficient infrastructure.

“The inclusion of provisions on improving energy access and catalysing the shift towards low carbon options is a step forward,” Ronquillo-Ballesteros said.

PROBLEMS

NGOs express concerns that the strategy will address neither energy access nor sustainable development adequately. “The strategy has to reflect the ambition and urgency needed to address pressing sustainable development challenges at hand, such as climate change, water stress, and declining air quality,” Ronquillo-Ballesteros said.

Heike Mainhardt-Gibbs works on environment and development issues, and is a senior consultant for Bank Information Center (BIC), a Washington NGO that monitors the World Bank. She thinks the new policy won’t be effective enough. “The

strategy should focus more on alleviating energy poverty by providing clean, affordable and reliable energy services directly to the poor”.

Oil Change International is an NGO that campaigns for a transition from fossil fuel towards clean energy. Elisabeth Bast, its Managing Director, says there is a need to facilitate alternatives to large projects. “The metrics for measuring increased energy access include megawatts and kilometres of transmission lines, which do not support the decentralized, renewable energy projects required to achieve universal energy access by 2030.”

Ms Mainhardt-Gibbs noted a few loopholes in the draft strategy which can allow for carbon-heavy investments. “Although the Bank is claiming that they will be selective in their oil and gas investments, the draft fails to specify any new criteria or screening processes to implement this selectivity. The strategy needs to clarify how such an analysis will impact the decision-making process.”

CLEAN ENERGY

NGOs feel that the Bank’s definition of ‘clean energy’ is too vague and includes energy sources which may still be large polluters. “The clean energy definition should be tightened to include renewable energy and energy efficiency projects (excluding large hydropower over 10 megawatts) and should only include policy loans and transmission and distribution projects that support renewable energy and energy efficiency.” said Ms Bast.

“The World Resources Institute believes clear targets need to be made on the basis of clean energy definitions that include new and renewable energy sources only. It should not include more efficient coal, large hydro power and nuclear power as low carbon, clean energy sources,” Ronquillo-Ballesteros said.

HYDROELECTRIC PROJECTS

Although popularly promoted as reliable, renewable and low-emission, large hydropower as a centralized power source is unable to provide

energy access to the poor off the grid. The draft strategy recognizes that economic, environmental, and social sustainability problems can come with hydropower development, but the Bank states that it is learning from various sources in order to minimize negative impacts.

Lori Pottinger, the editor of International Rivers’ quarterly publication *World Rivers Review*, is a long-time campaigner to raise international awareness about the problems with - and alternatives to - large dams in Africa. When asked if the Bank would be able to minimize hydropower impacts, Pottinger said, “We don’t believe the Bank has the capacity to fully address the negative impacts of large dams. We believe that the negative impacts of dams far outweigh their benefits, to the point of undermining the World Bank’s role in alleviating poverty.”

Even so, she notes that hydropower is not necessarily bad. “Hydropower can be a good option when done properly. For a dam to be truly sustainable, hydropower companies and dam financiers must be held accountable to a policy of access to information in which project risks and benefits are properly divulged to affected communities through culturally-appropriate forms of dialogue.”

She said that since hydropower projects are each different in their social and environmental situations, it is essential to have a broad analysis of each project before implementation.

“Much depends on the details: who is going to benefit, who will lose? Is the project a good fit for local needs? Are there better options?”

“The real test,” Bast said, “will be whether, in the coming years, there is a substantial increase in the percentages of energy loans supporting renewables, energy efficiency, and access for the poor.”

To know more about the World Bank Group’s work in energy, visit www.worldbank.org/energy

To communicate with the World Bank about energy policy, email energyconsult@worldbank.org

Investigation finds problems with World Bank loan for coal power plant

A review of a US\$ 3.75 billion loan to Eskom coal power plant in South Africa (see *Upstream Journal* V.23 No.4) by the World Bank’s Inspection Panel found that the Bank did not take health, water scarcity and pressures on local services into account. And although the loan did not violate World Bank climate change policies (partly because the World Bank does not have explicit emission targets), it lacked steps to mitigate the projected 25 million metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions.

World Bank coal projects left tribal people in India displaced and without income, NGO says

World Bank investments in coal power have left the local tribal people of Singrauli, India displaced and without livelihood, reports the Bretton Woods Project, a UK NGO. The area, once densely forested, is now a cluster of coal mines and coal-fired power plants. The transformation of the region into a power capital contributes to environmental degradation and undermines local health and livelihood. Yet there are proposals to increase their numbers, despite strains on the environment and with little provision to address issues such as local employment.

Besides affecting the local social and economic make

up, the projects impacted local people who relied on the forests that were cleared away for mines and power plants. Many lost their original livelihoods without the skills to gain new jobs the projects bring to the region. They live in polluted environments with limited access to basic facilities and retaliatory actions taken against those who protest the lack of employment.

Local activists say that these people were left behind because the World Bank failed to do prior planning and issue-based analysis in the initial stages of funding, and needs to be more accountable for the long-term impacts of its projects.

World Bank increases funding to repressive Belarus regime

“Belarus joined the World Bank in 1992. Since then, the Bank’s lending commitments in Belarus have totaled US\$865 million for 12 projects; about thirty national programs have received grant financing totaling US\$22.8 million. Belarus is currently receiving World Bank financing for 5 infrastructure projects... Almost US\$550 million or 60% of all loans Belarus received from the World Bank over the last 19 years were approved in 2009-2010,” - from the “Belarus Snapshot” on the World Bank website.

In December, President Alyaksandr Lukashenka was re-elected for the fourth time by 79.7 per cent of the votes in elections that international observers judged fell short of OSCE standards. Riot police violently dispersed a mainly peaceful demonstration held by opposition supporters at close of voting on December 19.

The election was followed by a clampdown on opposition activists, human rights defenders and journalists who were subjected to arbitrary detention, searches, threats and other forms of harassment by the authorities.

“In Belarus, human rights organisations which carry out independent human rights monitoring are systematically denied the right to exist and carry out ordinary activities. The Belarusian law and its implementation by the authorities blatantly violates international human rights standards binding Belarus”, says Souhayr Belhassen, President, International Federation for Human Rights.

What is Canada’s position on World Bank funding to Belarus? An email asking this, sent to Marie-Lucie Morin, Canada’s Executive Director at the World Bank (m.morin@worldbank.org, see *Upstream Journal* Vol.24 No.1) in November, got no response.

Ales Bialiatski, head of the Viasna Human Rights Center, has been in custody since his arrest on August 4. Established in Minsk in the wake of opposition protests in 1996, his organisation’s main areas of work include election monitoring, human rights education, promotion of democracy and assistance to political prisoners.

Viasna is one of the leading organizations in Belarus that provided financial and legal aid for political prisoners and members of their families in the wake of a massive government crackdown on opposition in December 2010 and the following months. The authorities withdrew Viasna’s registration in 2003, and have routinely denied it registration since.

Under Belarusian law, participation in and funding of an unregistered political party, religious organization, or public association is a criminal offense punishable by a fine or imprisonment for up to two years. In October 2011, the European Commission for Democracy Through Law (Venice Commission) concluded that this measure violates civil and political rights protected under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and European Convention on Human Rights. The commission stated that the provision “not only restricts freedom of association but also freedom of opinion and expression to an unjustifiable degree.”

In November, Bialiatski was sentenced to 4 1/2 years in prison. “Ales Bialiatski’s conviction is a disgraceful example of abusing the courts for political ends,” said Hugh Williamson, Europe and Central Asia director at Human Rights Watch.

Communities seek reparations for harm from World Bank-supported hydro project in Guatemala

Caught in the repression of the 1980s, communities on the Chixoy River were also affected when the Chixoy Dam was built, with funding from the World Bank and Inter-American Development Bank. 3,500 people were displaced; hundreds who refused to leave were killed, including women and children.

The development banks have always denied responsibility for the harm done building the dam, but in April 2010, a plan for reparations was agreed upon by all parties, including the government and local communities. Compensation for damage and loss is expected to cost US\$154.5 million, and the development banks are expected to cover some of the cost. The president, however, has not signed the executive order needed to implement the agreement.



Community members exhume the bodies of people killed in the violent massacres of the 1980's and 90's. Photo: Bert Hanson.

New World Bank lending program won't have to comply with social and environmental safeguards, activists say

The World Bank is launching a new lending instrument, the "Program for Results" (PforR), which is controversial because critics say it will be exempt from the suite of social and environmental safeguard policies - as well as financial management and procurement policies -- that have guided World Bank project lending for more than twenty years. The World Bank now appears to want social, environmental and fiduciary issues handled on a case-by-case basis.

"The collapse of norms and standards for these operations is a game changer," according to Nancy Alexander, director of the Economic Governance Program of the Heinrich Boell foundation.

The traditional suite of social and environmental safeguards will be abandoned, Alexander says, except for projects that are classified as "Category A." These are projects that the World Bank says have "potentially significant, irreversible adverse impacts on the environment and/or affected people."

An array of groups, including environmentalists and indigenous peoples, are unhappy that the PforR instrument will not have to comply with policies on Category B projects - those that the World Bank considers to have "potential adverse environmental impacts on human populations or environmentally important areas - including wet-

lands, forests, grasslands, and other natural habitats - which are less adverse than those of Category A projects."

Consultation, information disclosure and grievance procedures are also to be defined case-by-case, not by existing policy. The lack of a clear information disclosure policy is a major step backwards, Alexander says. The absence of standards for consultation is also a concern, especially since the World Bank's private sector arm now requires not only consultation but also the "free, prior and informed" consent of local indigenous communities for projects that may affect them.

LACK OF FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY

The PforR program also allows a borrowing country to monitor its own use of World Bank financing, which will be exempt from compliance with existing financial and management policies. Similarly, the borrower will be responsible for self-policing and the reporting of fraud or corruption to the World Bank. And there will be no clear policies on procurement and financing standards. PforR will only require that they be 'reasonable' and 'acceptable,' and borrowers themselves will also conduct most financial auditing.

The World Bank response to some of these concerns is on its web site, worldbank.org.



Working for a better world

How young people can prepare for a life in international development

Finding your way into international justice

Political science undergraduate students like me often choose international development as a part of their studies. With a secondary degree a growing necessity, law school is often seen as the most logical continuation of our field of studies, especially if we are interested in international justice.

BY MARISSA CHAN-KENT

But there are other options. A career in international justice may combine political science and development studies in a legal setting, but you don't necessarily need a law degree.

Two experts I spoke with agreed that there is more than one path to working in international justice. John Cerone, a professor of law and visiting scholar to the International Court of Justice (ICJ), talked about his decision to get a law degree.

My other contact, who prefers not to be named, works with the International Criminal Court (ICC). He says that graduate studies in international relations, diplomacy, law and economics are essential.

TO START, GO ABROAD

Everyone I spoke with for this article said that traveling after graduation is imperative. Regardless of future school plans, getting out of one's comfort zone will broaden perspectives, they told me. "Traveling is the best exposure. You'll meet all kinds of nationalities. And if you speak English you are at a huge advantage."

GET AN INTERNSHIP

"The way to break into an international organization is through an internship," a spokesperson with the ICC told me. Although many are unpaid, internships provide vital knowledge and experience while displaying a person's work ethic and dedication.

Information about internships with the ICC and ICJ are on their web sites, where they encourage applications from "young professionals who are in the early stages of their careers."

The minimum requirement for an internship at the ICC is a university degree. Graduates specializing in public international law, human-

Decoding law degrees

The J.D. designation is used in the United States, where students must complete an undergraduate degree before attending law school. The LL.B. (bachelor of laws) is widely used in Canada and Britain. The difference is that in Canada, as in the U.S., most students complete an undergrad degree before entering law school. So some schools began using J.D., starting with the University of Toronto in 2001, since the J.D. was regarded in the U.S. as more prestigious.

The LL.M. (master of law) is a more advanced degree, allowing specialization. Most lawyers do not pursue one, and most countries do not require it for the practice of law.

itarian law, human rights law and comparative law and criminology are welcome to apply for legal positions. Graduates of history, political science, international relations, journalism, communications and economics can fill non-legal positions.

English and French are the languages of ICJ and ICC but having a working knowledge of Chinese, Spanish or Arabic is considered an asset.

LAW SCHOOL

Getting a law degree is the conventional route to working in international justice. But from John Cerone's experience, a law degree alone is often not enough to be successful.

Now the director of the Center for International Law and Policy at New England Law – Boston, Cerone studied abroad and then got an internship with Interights, a UK human rights organization. He wanted to “specialize further, expand networks and increase the prospects of finding work in the highly competitive field of international human rights law.”

“Doing an LLM really depends on each individual's circumstance. The factor to consider is the extent of specialization in a Juris Doctor (JD) program,” he said.

An advanced law degree is particularly valuable if working for an international organization. Choosing the right international focus for your LLM will help expand your professional network, adding legitimacy to knowledge, he said.

For example, the Hague Academy for International Law is a centre for research and teaching in public and private international law. Applicants need to have a university and three-year law degree. The school says it aims to provide “opportunities to have contacts with ICJ, ICC, the Iran US Claims Tribunal, the Bureau of Permanent Court of Arbitration, the Conference on Private International Law and other institutions.”

THE IMPORTANCE OF EXPERIENCE – (AND GETTING A MASTERS)

It may be difficult to get a career start, or even an internship, with an undergraduate degree. My contact at the ICC said that graduate studies in diplomatic studies, international law, international relations and international economy are fundamental.

His career got underway with an internship. After sending out many applications, he was offered one in Croatia with the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, and then a

research scholarship with CSIS in Washington. He has since worked with UNICEF in Georgia and in Afghanistan with the UN and NATO before he landed a job with the ICC as a Security Analyst.

For John Cerone, volunteering led to his first paid human rights job at the UN, helping draft a legal framework paper on state responsibility and human trafficking. He then worked with the UN mission in Kosovo.

“The experience was invaluable” he says. He learned about challenges of post-conflict construction, implementing international human rights law and working with international bureaucracies and an array of people. Since then, he has worked on projects in Afghanistan, Cambodia, East Timor, Kenya and Sierra.

PERSISTENCE

Both professionals I spoke with agree that perseverance is the key to professional success. Both applied to every human rights organization and international justice institution they could find since graduation. Yet experience is important. It was their fieldwork combined with academic training that validated their applications and led to their current positions.

“The main thing is persistence. You have to keep applying, keep searching, keep writing applications; send your CV to a million places. It's like fishing at the beginning because you don't have much to offer.” I was told. “If you don't apply, the answer is no.”

Marissa Chan-Kent also wrote the story on Afghan women in prison (page 9).

Internships at the International Criminal Court:

Internship and Visiting Professional Programme
Post Office Box 19519, 2500 CM The Hague, The Netherlands. Email: Internship-Visitingprofessional.Programme@icc-cpi.int

Internships at the International Court of Justice:

See www.icj-cij.org, in the “registry” section, for info and the online application form.

Internships with the UN

They require that candidates be graduate students. Apply online at <http://jobs.un.org> or contact the internship programme, UN Headquarters Office of Human Resources Management, Room M-09025 D, New York, NY 10017, email OHRM_Interns@un.org

WORLD IN CONFLICT

THE LONGEST, THE BLOODIEST, THE DEADLIEST

An armed conflict is defined as a conflict involving armed force between two parties, at least one of which is a government of a state, and which results in at least 25 deaths per calendar year or in which 1000 people have been killed by fighting.

THE LONGEST

The fight of various minority groups against the Myanmar government, begun in 1949.

THE BLOODIEST

The Mexican Drug War, with over 24,000 fatalities in 2010-2011 and more than 43,000 fatalities since 2006.

THE DEADLIEST

The Afghan civil war, with 600,000 to 2,000,000 casualties and losses since 1978.

BY THE NUMBERS:

26 Days of peace since World War II ended in 1945.

24 Number of significant conflicts in 2010

5 Conflicts started in 2011 - the Libyan civil war, the Yemeni uprising, the Syrian uprising, the South Kordofan conflict and the Kenyan invasion of Somalia. On average, armed conflicts are on the decline globally, as is mortality due to conflict (in part because humanitarian assistance has increased).

10-to-1 Civilian-to-soldier casualty ratio in war since the mid-20th century.

200,000 Indirect deaths from conflicts annually. The ratio of indirect to direct deaths from conflicts is about 4:1. In war, there are many indirect causes of death such as exposure to infectious diseases, lack of access to basic needs and services, and destruction of assets.

Sources: Human Security Report 2009-10; The Uppsala Conflict Data Program; Project Ploughshares Armed Conflicts Report; Small Arms Survey.

Journalists in prison at record high

The number of journalists in prison around the world is higher than it has been in 15 years, says the Committee to Protect Journalists. At the close of 2011, 179 writers, editors and photojournalists were detained. The jump is largely attributed to military regimes in Middle East and North Africa, where governments were holding 77 journalists behind bars - nearly 45 percent of the worldwide total. Iran topped the list of countries that imprison journalists, with 42. Eritrea, China, Burma, Vietnam, Syria, and Turkey also ranked among the world's worst.

65 journalists were held without any publicly disclosed charge, many of them in secret prisons without access to lawyers or family members. Governments such as those in Eritrea, Syria, and Gambia have denied the very existence of these jailed journalists. Reports of mistreatment and torture are common in these cases, in which authorities operate without accountability and in contravention of international norms.



Of debt and gold

Do you remember the Jubilee movement for debt cancellation? In the final few years of the 20th century, organizations such as the Social Justice Committee participated in a global campaign calling upon the IMF and the

World Bank to unconditionally cancel the debts they claimed were owed them by many of the world's poorer countries. A central feature of this campaign was a petition ultimately signed by some seven million people and presented to the G7 in Cologne, Germany.

The G7, the IMF and the World Bank made several conciliatory statements, and most of the organizations involved in the campaign judged it a success and turned their attention elsewhere. However, for the SJC, one of our primary concerns continued to be the structural adjustment programs (SAPs) that were a requirement for debt relief.

These programs included the privatization of utilities such as medical facilities, electricity, potable water, and communications. Another condition was that indebted countries were to welcome mostly Western corporations to set up shop in their countries. It is not difficult to see how these conditions go hand in hand. A third condition was that poor countries should rely on the export of cash crops to bring income.

Today, we can see some of the results of these SAPs. In country after country, foreign corporations have become numerous and powerful.

For example, when we began our work on mining in Guatemala we were somewhat surprised to see that the royalties that Montana Exploradora (then a subsidiary of Glamis Gold, now owned by Goldcorp) paid to the Guatemalan government from the Marlin gold mine were but 1% of profits. Why so low? Well, less than ten years earlier the Guatemalan government had signed peace accords with the armed opposition, thereby ending a long conflict. With the country now more appealing to investors, the World Bank guided the reform of mining laws that lowered taxes on mining profits and reduced royalties from 6% to 1%. Welcome mining!

Interestingly enough, Montana Exploradora has just announced that it has agreed with the government to increase the royalty to 5%, much of it to benefit local government. This comes at a time when Guatemalan opposition to the existing mine, and others to come, is strengthening. Even as I was writing this I got news that 98% of 16,000 people in the Guatemalan coastal community of Champerico rejected a mine in a referendum.

There are many other mining companies working in Latin America, Africa and Asia. Honduras, under pressure from foreign mining interests, is in the process of introducing a new pro-mining law. Two indigenous people were killed recently in protests against mining in Panama. Debt, SAPs and free trade agreements paved the way for an extensive search by Western mining interests for gold and other metals.

And mineral resources are not the only ones in heavy demand. In Central America, the African palm tree has become a major source of income for national and international enterprises at the expense of the local people. From it comes palm oil, used by food manufacturers for chocolate, biscuits, and other processed foods and for ethanol. Land barons in Honduras are grabbing up huge tracts of land to grow these trees instead of the food which local people so badly need.

Governments such as those of Guatemala and Honduras must be censured for not standing up for their people, especially the poorest, but we cannot ignore the role of corporations, the international financial institutions and Western governments in contributing to an unjust economic system. Nor can we forget those in our society who benefit from it. International solidarity is as important as ever.

Ernie Schibli is a founding member of the SJC, and one of our most popular workshop animators. Contact: ernie@s-jc.net

The Social Justice Committee

The *Upstream Journal* is a publication of the Social Justice Committee of Montreal. It is one of several educational materials we offer on human rights and development.

Donations to the SJC are welcome, and go to support a range of human rights & development education activities.

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Most articles are produced in the SJC office by volunteers and interns who are in training in journalism, with guidance and content input from the editor.

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The province of Quebec has reduced its funding to NGOs, and will no longer support the work of the SJC.

The organization is facing a severe funding crisis in the coming year. With expenses now exceeding income, we are devouring our cash reserves, even with modest annual expenses of about \$100,000. Now we have lost the \$25,000 the province has generously provided for several years.

Where can we turn for funding? CIDA? Charitable foundations? In Canada, there are very few sources of support for human rights organizations that take on the complicated challenge of changing national and global policies that enable exclusion and oppression.

But the SJC has the support of its members, and with that support it remains independent and unhesitant in its efforts. What would it take to be fully member-funded? Imagine 2,000 people each giving \$50 - that would do it! And many of our members give more than that; a few give quite a bit more.

This is a place where individual donations really do make a world of difference. Not in terms of whether a village gets a water pump or a goat (and there are excellent reasons to support groups that help with those things), but whether the people of a village are protected by laws and policies that ensure their voices are heard, and that they are included in deciding their future.

Want to make a difference in the world? Be part of the effort to change the global system - support the SJC!

The Upstream Journal is seeking volunteers and interns in writing, design or magazine development.

Writing a story will introduce you to important issues of human rights efforts. You'll research the issues, talk with the people who are key to getting the full picture, and learn how to write as a journalist.

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Magazine development is the big picture - what kind of magazine do readers want? How can we improve the content, the design, the marketing?

If you are interested in volunteering or interning with us, contact the editor.



The Social Justice Committee
Le Comité pour la justice sociale

The Social Justice Committee of Montreal is an independent Canadian organization working in international solidarity. Conscious that many of the world's impoverished peoples are victims of social injustice, and inspired by the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, its mission is to engage Canadians in working for a more socially just world.

The SJC has been working to raise awareness of the root causes of hunger, poverty and repression in the world through our education programs since 1975. We work in solidarity with organizations in a number of Third World countries in the search for a more just and sustainable global socio-economic system.

As an independent human rights organization, the SJC provides education and advocacy about global poverty and inequality. We use public education to help individuals and organizations become actively engaged in efforts to create a more just global society. We seek to eliminate poverty and human rights violations through informed popular participation in defense of economic, social and cultural rights.

The SJC depends on financial support from its members and the general public. It is a registered charitable organization; donations are tax deductible.

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Views expressed in the *Upstream Journal* are the writers' own and do not necessarily reflect those of the Social Justice Committee. We welcome the submission of images and articles on aspects of international development and human rights.

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Le Comité pour la justice sociale remercie le **ministère des Relations internationales** de son appui à sa mission d'éducation à la solidarité internationale.

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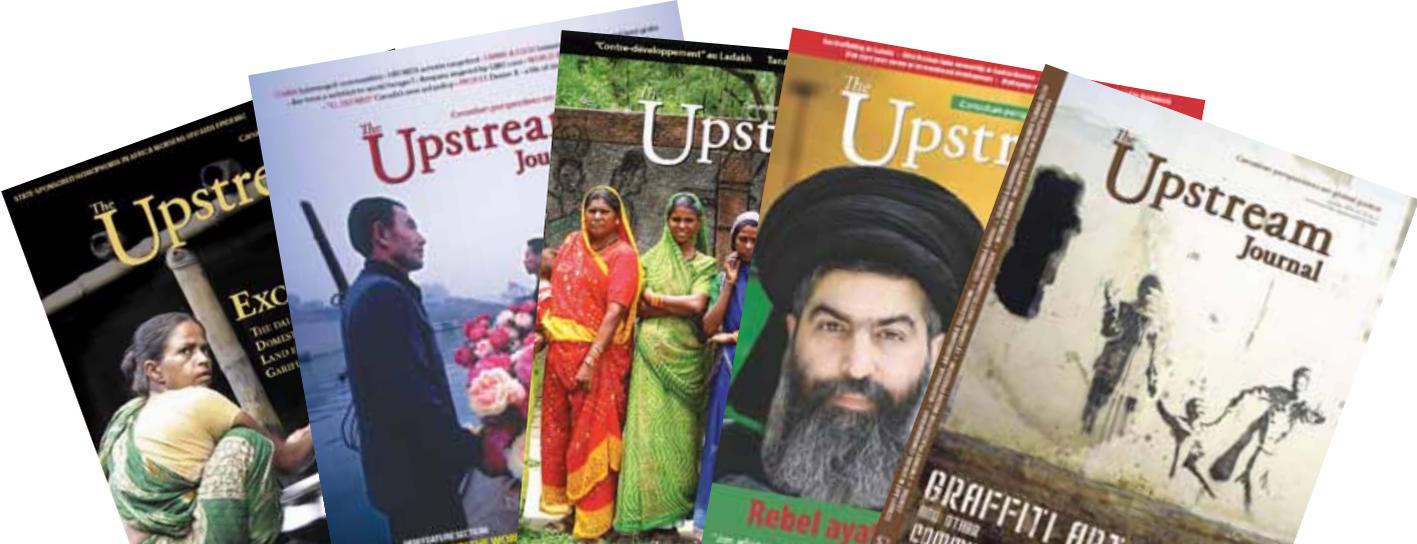
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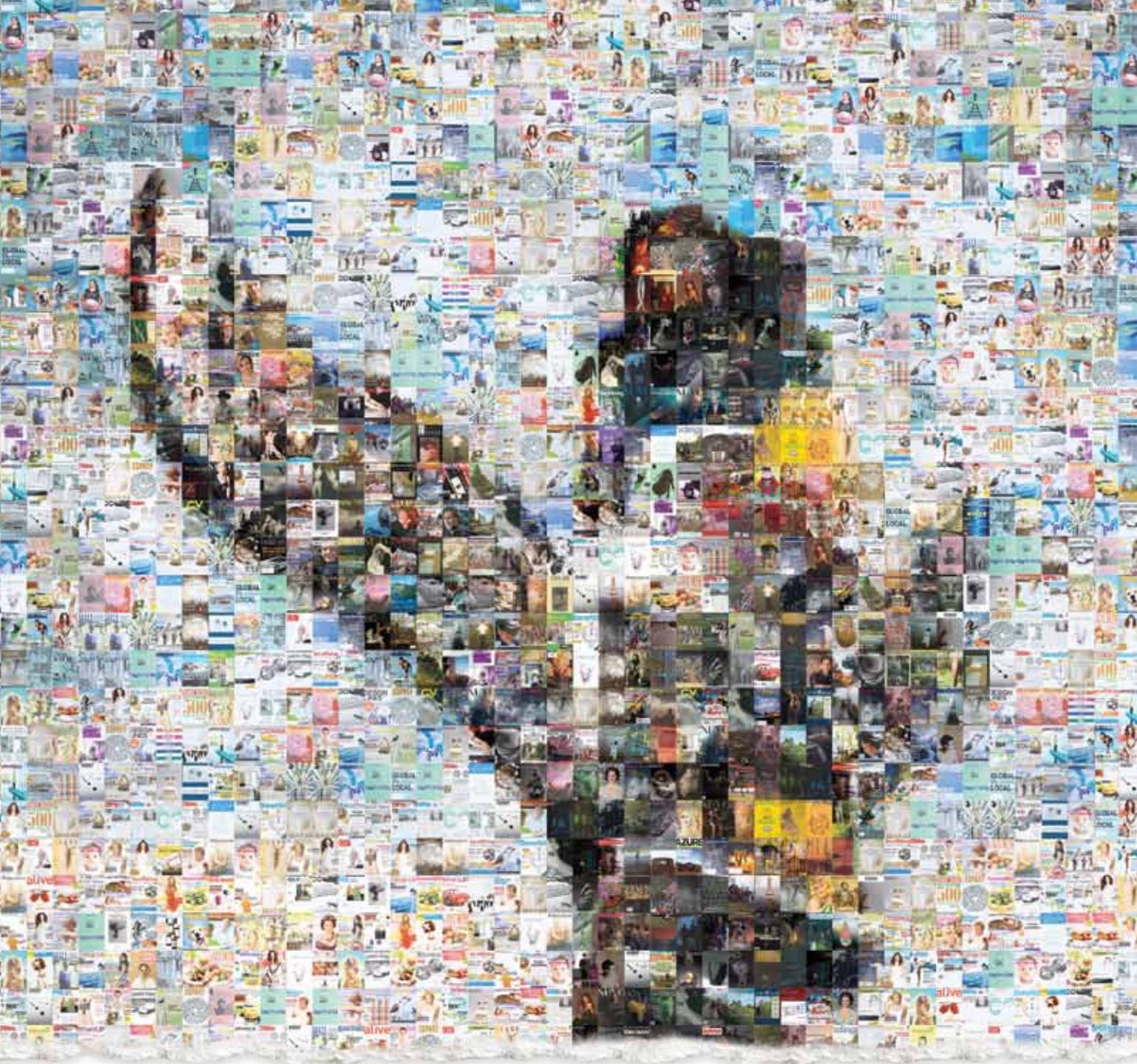
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In the Kalahari, Bushmen are getting safe water for the first time in years, with a borehole pump and a reverse osmosis unit with desalination filter provided by Vox United in cooperation with Survival International. For the story of the Bushmen's struggle, see page 3. Photo: Vox United/Survival International



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