



**Rapid Response Fund  
September 2007- September 2008 Grantees**

**The Institute for Asian Democracy (IAD)**

***Rapid Response to the Current Crisis in Burma***

***Approved: September 2007***

\$25,000

The Institute for Asian Democracy stepped up its considerable activities on behalf of human rights and political reform in Burma, in response to the crisis instigated by the crackdown on peaceful demonstrations by the Burmese government in the summer and fall of 2007. IAD has played a critical role in increasing awareness of Burma's political situation within the international community and among policy-makers.

**The National Iranian American Council (NIAC)**

***The US-Iran Media Resource Program***

***Approved: November 2007***

\$25,000

During a period of considerable risk of confrontation with Iran, NIAC promoted an extended pattern of US diplomatic engagement, through producing and disseminating timely messages on Iran to the media.

**US Climate Action Network (USCAN)**

***USCAN Bali Communication Coordination***

***Approved: November 2007***

\$25,000

The Rapid Response Fund enabled USCAN to partner with a highly regarded strategic communications organization in order to strengthen its coordinating role in assisting NGOs in communications before, during and after the UN climate change conference in Bali, held from December 3-14.

**The Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA)**

***Influencing the Debate on US Counter-Drug Assistance to Mexico***

***Approved: December 2007***

\$15,000

WOLA launched an effort to elicit healthy debate about the nature of a new U.S.-Mexico counter-narcotics aid package, proposed at more than \$1 billion over three years. WOLA's effort has emphasized the need for structural police and justice reforms in Mexico to effectively address drug-trafficking and violence, as well as the need to include oversight mechanisms into components of the aid package -- to ensure civil liberties guarantees and the protection of human rights.

**Campaign for Innocent Victims In Conflict (CIVIC)**

***Helping Civilians Harmed in Combat: A Civil-Military Cooperative Approach***

***Approved: February 2007***

\$25,000

CIVIC launched two initiatives to improve U.S. compensation assistance for civilian victims of armed conflict. The first, in response to an invitation, was an unprecedented special training program on victim's compensation at the Fort Irwin National Training Center in California, which then resulted in a request for a comprehensive training manual to be produced and disseminated to all locations where U.S. soldiers are deployed. The second involved the deployment of a legal and policy advocate to Afghanistan to promote better implementation of victim's compensation efforts, coordinating recommendations with the U.S. Agency for International Development, the European Commission, US and foreign military officials, and ambassadors on the ground.

**Jubilee USA Network**

***Organizing for A New Debt Policy***

***Approved: February 2008***

\$25,000

Jubilee USA, an alliance of 80 religious denominations and faith communities, as well as human rights, environmental, labor and community groups, has promoted expanded international debt relief through a timely outreach campaign to engage a number of its religious constituencies, in particular in Delaware, Indiana, Florida, Maine, and Ohio.

**The Democracy Coalition Project (DCP)**

***NGO Strategy for the 2008 UN Human Rights Council Elections***

***Approved: February 2008***

\$25,000

DCP executed a timely advocacy campaign to engage the United States in the election process for the United Nations Human Rights Council (HRC), with a focus on working against the election of those nations which had the worst human rights records, and encouraging governments that respect human rights to stand for election.

**Partnership for a Secure America (PSA)**

***Interrogation Statement***

***Approved: February 2008***

\$5,000

PSA promoted a timely bi-partisan public statement against torture perpetrated by U.S. interrogators, to be released while legislation on the issue was being considered in Congress. The PSA effort included support for extending to the entire U.S. government the applicability of the Army Field Manual on Human Intelligence Collector Operations, which bans the use of torture, but had only been binding on U.S. military personnel.

**Center for Justice and Peacebuilding (3D Security Initiative)**  
***Infrastructure for Peace and Stability: Building a Policy Reform Machine***  
***Approved: February 2008***  
**\$15,000**

The 3D Security Initiative, in advance of key decisions in Congress, brought together advocacy organizations, policy analysts, and government and military leaders to promote more responsible U.S. global engagement through enhanced civilian capacity for reconstruction and stabilization activities.

**American Council for Voluntary International Action – InterAction**  
***InterAction Partner Vetting System (PVS) Research Project***  
***Approved: May 2008***  
**\$25,000**

InterAction launched an effort to halt or modify a proposed USAID policy to create a new “Partner Vetting System (PVS).” If implemented as proposed in the spring of 2008, the system would subject officials of non-governmental organizations that apply for USAID contracts and grants to an intrusive process of inquiry that would risk violating privacy rights as well as the safety of NGO overseas personnel. Although proposed as a counter-terrorism measure, the vetting procedure would jeopardize the effectiveness of NGOs working around the world to undermine the root causes of extremism.

**Just Foreign Policy (JFP)**  
***Follow-up on Congressional Meetings with Stephen Kinzer***  
**\$15,210**  
**June 2008**

JFP launched a timely effort to promote direct U.S. diplomacy with Iran without preconditions. Upon an invitation from key members of Congress, JFP deployed Stephen Kinzer, a highly influential voice on U.S.-Iran issues, to help develop alternative and viable perspectives on Iran amongst policy-makers.

**Friends Committee on National Legislation Education Fund (FCNL)**  
***Campaign to Shift U.S. Policy on Cluster Munitions***  
**\$25,000**  
**June 2008**

FCNL, coordinator of the multi-organization U.S. Campaign to Ban Landmines, sought to ensure that a newly elected president would be prepared to embrace, or support the objectives of, the international treaty banning cluster munitions, which was adopted by over 100 governments on May 30, 2009. FCNL sought to 1) promote public support for efforts to ban and/or restrict cluster munitions, through publishing editorials and opinion articles in the media across the country and educating Members of Congress 2) encourage retired military officers to speak out on the issue, and 3) educate the presidential campaigns, through position papers and briefings.

**The Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)**

***Task Force on Short-term Solutions to the Rising Global Food Crisis***

***Approved: June 2008***

\$18,240

CSIS rapidly assembled a high-level group to assess the shifting realities shaping the supply and demand of food and to develop recommendations for short-term actions the U.S. could take to ease market conditions and provide leadership in seeking solutions to the global food crisis, which threatened to plunge millions into extreme poverty and hunger. The group was comprised of senior-level NGO representatives, food relief experts and former government officials, and a set of expert advisors who included representatives from key government agencies, as well as specialists on key areas affecting food supply (energy, biofuels, trade, relief efforts and agriculture).

**The Center for International Policy (CIP)**

***Justice, Truth and U.S. Military Assistance: giving Putumayo's victims a hearing***

***Approved: July 2008***

\$20,000

CIP, upon an offer from key leaders in Congress, brought victims of large scale human rights violations in Colombia to the United States to meet with members of Congress, State Department officials, representatives of international organizations, NGOs and others. The visit was designed to emphasize the importance of maintaining a balance of non-military and military assistance to developing countries, and in highlighting the importance of human rights in U.S. foreign aid and counter-narcotics policy.

**Common Cause Education Fund (CCEF)**

Common Cause Delegation to Iran

***Approved: September 2008***

\$25,000

CCEF sought to swiftly deploy a bipartisan citizen diplomacy delegation of former U.S. congresspersons to Iran in the fall after the U.S. Presidential elections. The purpose was to increase understanding between the U.S. and Iran, as well as the likelihood that Iran policy would be the subject of open and informed debate involving both the public and Congress.