

# Civil Society Watch Associate

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(Johannesburg, South Africa) CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation is one of the leading and most diverse international civil society networks, with members and partners in more than 100 countries and a staff of 30 people from 20 countries.

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Welcome to Civil

updates and analyses concerning civil society's rights to freedom of association, assembly and expression around the world. The Bulletin is compiled by the staff at Civil Society Watch, a programme of CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation. Please feel free to forward the Bulletin to friends and colleagues. We welcome your comments and contributions!

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jail and in hiding, but never silenced An interview with Min Lwin Oo, Burma Lawyer's Council and Asian Human Rig  
 Commission, Hong Kong The last couple of months have seen increasing repression of activists and peaceful protest

in Burma. While over 1000 are thought to still be in prison, more are in hiding, fearful that they will also find themselves  
 behind bars. In this edition of the Monthly Bulletin we speak with Min Lwin Oo, who works with the legal aid section of the

Burma Lawyers Council (BLC), and the Burma desk of the Asian Human Rights Commission, Hong Kong. Read the  
 interview, visit: [http://www.civicus.org/csw/FRONTPAGE\\_BURMA.htm](http://www.civicus.org/csw/FRONTPAGE_BURMA.htm) CIVICUS ALERTS

Verdict delayed: Activists detained for over two years 9 October 2007 - Anti-poverty activists Daniel Bekele and  
 Netsanet Demissie heard that they must wait in prison for at least another six weeks, as judges in Ethiopia's Federal  
 High Court again delayed the verdict until 22 November 2007, bringing their total detention to over two years. Both  
 coordinators of the Global Call to Action against Poverty, they are the last two accused in the high profile Ethiopian  
 treason trial that originally charged 131 politicians, journalists, organisations and civil society leaders.

<http://www.civicus.org/csw/CIVICUS.GCAP.Delay.10.10.07.htm> ANALYSIS

43.7 million stand up Caitlin Blaser, GCAP Mobilisation Officer, reflects on the October 17th "Stand Up, Speak Out"  
 Campaign On October 17th 2007, the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, 43.7 million people around the  
 world stood up and spoke out against poverty and inequality. Unlike some mass direct actions, 'Stand Up and Speak Out'  
 cannot claim an immediate and substantial policy change that will help end poverty. And yet many claim that October  
 17th has been a successful mobilisation. Why? [http://www.civicus.org/csw/ANALYSIS\\_GCAP.htm](http://www.civicus.org/csw/ANALYSIS_GCAP.htm)

PERU: Court rules parts of NGO law unconstitutional September 2007 - At the end of August, t  
 Court of Peru ruled that parts of the Law on NGOs were unconstitutional. The law would have required that NGOs  
 register to be able to carry out projects within Peru. <http://www.iccs.org/news/news.html> TURKEY

rules Turkey violated freedom of speech 5 October - The European Court on Human Rights ruled that Turkey violated  
 freedom of speech in two prosecutions, reports BIANET. The court stated that Erdal Tas, former editor of the now-closed  
 Yeni Gündem newspaper, was not given a fair trial. In the second case, the ECHR ruled that Turkey pay compensation for  
 imprisoning human rights activist Akin Birdal, former president of the Human Rights Association and now MP for the pro-  
 Kurdish Democratic Society Party. <http://egypt.ifex.org/en/content/view/full/86774/index.html> USA:

terrorism case against Muslim charity 22 October - A federal judge has declared a mistrial in the criminal case against  
 the Holy Land Foundation (HLF), and five of its former top officials, reports the American Civil Liberties Union. In 2001,  
 HLF, then the nation's largest Muslim charity, was shut down when the government accused it of providing "material  
 support" for terrorism. The government later charged it with having provided funds to local committees that provide  
 humanitarian aid in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, alleging that the committees were run by Hamas. The HLF case is  
 reportedly one of numerous "material support" prosecutions now in courts around the country.

<http://www.commondreams.org/news2007/1022-11.htm>

USA: Act to prevent repressive governments from using Internet data 23 October - The House of Representativ  
 Foreign Affairs Committee has approved the proposed Global Online Freedom Act, states Reporters Without Borders. If  
 enacted, the Act would reportedly prevent repressive governments - those that punish activists who publish online - from  
 having access to personal data by banning US companies from locating the servers containing this data in the territories  
 controlled by such governments. [http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id\\_article=24141](http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=24141) CSW COU

AUSTRALIA: Proposed law to censor Internet 10 October - Proposed legislation would give the federal

commissioner powers to unilaterally block Internet content that he or she "has reason to believe . . . is crime or terrorist related," reports the Committee to Protect Journalists. <http://www.cpj.org/news/2007/asia/austr10oct07na.html>

**BAHRAIN:** Activist banned from appearing in media 16 October - Women's rights activist and president of the Bahrain Women's Petition, Ghada Jamsheer, has been banned from appearing in any of the Bahraini media, including radio, television or newspapers, reports the Bahrain Centre for Human Rights. <http://www.bahrainrights.org/en/node/1485>

**BOTSWANA:** Registration of LGBT organisation refused 5 October - The Registrar of Societies refused to register a gay and lesbian association (LEGABIBO), because he considered that the proposed society's objectives are likely to be used for an unlawful purpose, thus disturbing the country's peace, welfare and good order, reports Mmegi/The Reporter. <http://allafrica.com/stories/200710081221.html>

**CANADA:** Peace activists denied entry at border October - Peace activists, CODEPINK and Global Exchange co-founder Medea Benjamin and retired Colonel and diplomat Ann Wright, were denied entry into Canada. They were on their way to Toronto to discuss peace and security issues at the invitation of the Toronto Stop the War Coalition, reports Commondreams. <http://www.commondreams.org/news/2007/1003-15.htm>

**CHINA:** Leader of petition campaign detained 23 October - The lead organiser of a public letter signed by 12,150 petitioners calling on Chinese Communist Party leaders to implement political and legal reforms, Liu Jie, was detained by police on 13 October, reports the Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders. <http://www.fidh.org/spip.php?article4822>

**COLOMBIA:** M group face court 5 October - 18 members of the Asociación Campesina del Valle del Río Cimitarra (Peasant Association of Cimitarra River Valley) are currently facing charges and judicial proceedings, reports Frontline. <http://www.frontlinedefenders.org/node/1181>

**EGYPT:** Trade union leader and lawyer sentenced 12 October - General Coordinator of the Centre for Trade Unions and Workers Services, Kamal Abbas, and his lawyer, Mohamed Helmy, were both given one year sentences following a lawsuit for alleged "slander and defamation of character", filed by the Chair of a youth centre, also a member of the ruling National Democratic Party, reports the Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders. <http://www.fidh.org/spip.php?article4794>

**IRAN:** Journalist/Activist on propaganda charges 15 October - Journalist and leading advocate of prisoners of conscience, Emadeddin Baghi was detained on 14 October on the charge of "propaganda against the government," says Reporters Without Borders. [http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id\\_article=24004](http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=24004)

**KYRGYZSTAN:** Restrictive guidelines on NGO funding issued 2 October - The Kyrgyz financial police have issued restrictive guidelines on funding for international and foreign NGOs, increasing authorities' control over independent civil society in the country, reports the Observatory for Protection of Human Rights Defenders. <http://www.omct.org/index.php?id=&lang=eng&articleId=7280>

**NEW ZEALAND:** 17 arrested under anti-terror law 15 October - In the first operation under New Zealand's anti-terror law, police have arrested 17 people, including Maori and environmental activists, reports AFP. Among those arrested was Tame Iti, New Zealand's most prominent Maori rights campaigner. [http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20071015/wl\\_afp/nzealandarrests](http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20071015/wl_afp/nzealandarrests)

**RUSSIA:** Funds blocked for conference October - A conference in memory of Anna Politkovskaya to be held on 5-6 October had to be cancelled after the authorities blocked the funds of the organisations planning the event, the Nizhny Novgorod Foundation to Promote Tolerance and the Nizhny Novgorod branch of Novaya Gazeta, reports the Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders. <http://www.omct.org>

**SRI LANKA:** Draft rights bill flawed 3 October - Sri Lanka is to enact legislation to give effect to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, however, only arbitrarily selected provisions have been included, excluding others such as Article 19 on freedom of expression, reports the Free Media Movement. <http://www.ifex.org/es/content/view/full/86746/>

**SYRIA:** Human rights activists regularly harassed and arrested 17 October - Syrian authorities regularly harass activists by arresting them and preventing them from meeting or travelling, and they have refused to register any human rights groups, states a Human Rights Watch report. <http://hrw.org/english/docs/2007/10/17/syria17075.htm>

**TAJKISTAN:** Religious group banned 18 October - The Ministry of Culture has banned Jehovah Witnesses from operating anywhere in the country, reports Forum 18. The authorities' main complaint was reportedly the group's refusal to participate in military service. [http://www.forum18.org/Archive.php?article\\_id=1036](http://www.forum18.org/Archive.php?article_id=1036)

**TUNISIA:** Former prisoner of conscience forbidden from travelling October - Former prisoner of conscience Mohammed Abbou has been prevented from travelling to Cairo to attend the trial of an editor of an independent newspaper, reports the Arabic Network for Human Rights Information. He was also reportedly prevented from travelling to London in August. <http://www.ifex.org/en/content/view/full/87179/>

**USA:** Authorities demand closure of LGBT organisation 16 October - The Governor's Office of Istanbul has demanded the closure of Lambda Istanbul, an organisation defending lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) rights in Turkey, claiming that the name and objectives of the group are "against the law and morality", reports Human Rights Watch. <http://hrw.org/english/docs/2007/10/16/turkey17107.htm>

**USA:** Priests sentenced for protest against torture October - Louis Vitale, a Franciscan priest, and Steve Kelly, a Jesuit priest, were each sentenced to five months in federal prison for attempting to deliver a letter opposing the teaching of torture during a small rally at Fort Huachuca, the national headquarters of military intelligence, reports Commondreams. They were reportedly charged with trespassing and refusing to comply with military police orders. <http://www.commondreams.org/archive/2007/10/17/4650/>

**UZBEKISTAN:** Human rights defender disappeared 10 October - Human rights defender Hurrām Berdiev has been missing for over two months after he disappeared on 15 August, the same day he was due to approach Internal Affairs for permission to leave the country, reports Association Droits de l'Homme en Asie Centrale. <http://press.asiecentrale.info/?q=node/10>

**ZIMBABWE:** Members of women's NGO face political violence October - Members of WOZA (Women of Zimbabwe Arise) have suffered extreme abuse at the hands of state actors in the course of defending their rights and demanding social justice, states a new report by the organisation. <http://www.kubatana.net/html/archive/women/071009woza.asp>

RESOURCES AND PUBLICA

Defending Women - Defending Rights: Guidebook published A Guidebook on Women Human Rights Defenders aims to help women human rights defenders name the specific risks, violations and constraints they face in their work. It presents a practical discussion of the useful mechanisms developed by the state and also civil society to provide redress and remedy, and to protect women human rights defenders. For more information, visit <http://www.defendingwomen-defendingrights.org>

KIWANJA: Free SMS service for non-profits FrontlineSMS is the first text messaging service to be conceived, designed and written firmly with the needs of the non-profit sector in mind. The FrontlineSMS software is provided free to charities and other non-profit organisations. For more information, visit <http://frontlinesms.kiwanja.net>

RSF: Worldwide Press Freedom Index 2007 released Eritrea has replaced North Korea in last place out of 169 countries in the Worldwide Press Freedom Index 2007 released recently by Reporters Without Borders. Visit [http://www.rsf.org/article.php?id\\_article=24019](http://www.rsf.org/article.php?id_article=24019)

UN Human Rights Council: NGO involvement in Universal Periodic Reviews The UN Human Rights Council will begin examining countries' human rights practices using the Universal Periodic Review Mechanism in April 2008. Civil society organisations are encouraged to participate in the process and submit reports by 20 November. Visit [http://www.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/upr/noteNGO\\_041007.htm](http://www.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/upr/noteNGO_041007.htm)

What do you think? Have your say on the CIVICUS Blog Have your say, visit <http://civicus.civiblog.org>

US We hope you enjoyed the Bulletin! If you would like to send an appeal or share information with us regarding issues affecting civil society in your region, please contact the Civil Society Watch (CSW) team at, [cswatch@civicus.org](mailto:cswatch@civicus.org)

To subscribe or unsubscribe please e-mail, [cswcommunity@civicus.org](mailto:cswcommunity@civicus.org) CIVICUS House, PO Box 933, Southdale, Johannesburg, 2135, South Africa, tel +27 11 833 5959 / fax +27 11 833 7997

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Civil Society Watch Associate (multiple positions)

Civil Society Watch Programme, CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation

(Johannesburg, South Africa) CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation is one of the leading and most diverse international civil society networks, with members and partners in more than 100 countries and a staff of 30 people from 20 countries. It implements a range of programmatic activities focusing on strengthening civil society and its role in governance and development worldwide. It also serves as a convener of global civil society leaders through its annual World Assembly and other convening activities.

CIVICUS seeks to recruit Associates for its Civil Society Watch Programme (CSW). CSW seeks to expose, address and prevent threats to civil society, particularly related to freedoms of association, expression and assembly. More information: [www.civilsocietywatch.org](http://www.civilsocietywatch.org)

Associates will be responsible for analysis, networking and advocacy in support of civil society. We are recruiting for multiple positions to expand our team and in particular are seeking Associates with the following skills:

- One with experience and networks in the Middle East / Northern Africa region, and fluency in Arabic; and
- One with a law degree and experience in the analysis of laws from a human rights perspective. Candidates should have the following skills, experience and knowledge:
  - Commitment to CIVICUS' vision, mission and values;
  - Sophisticated understanding of human rights and civil society issues
  - Experience and proven track record in human rights activism, particularly in policy-level advocacy
  - Strong analysis and writing skills, including experience in tailoring language for different audiences
  - Ability to successfully work individually and as a contributing member of a team
  - International work experience and strategic networks
  - Excellent written and oral communication skills in English and one other major international language
  - An advanced degree in a relevant discipline, preferably law, human rights or political science.

Start date: as soon as possible. Duration: initially a 12 month contract will be offered, renewable on satisfactory performance. Please include a Resume (CV) with contact details of three current referees and a motivational cover letter including a statement verifying that the details within the CV are true and correct, and that the candidate agrees to the conducting of reference and background checks. CIVICUS holds reference reports in the strictest of confidence.

Closing date: 24 October 2007 Candidates should forward above documents and information to: [humanresources@civicus.org](mailto:humanresources@civicus.org). Please note that only short-listed candidates will be contacted.