



Political Rights and Enfranchisement System Strengthening (PRESS)

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Migration and Elections Bulletin – No.1

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The Political Rights and Enfranchisement System Strengthening (PRESS) project is an IOM -led effort aimed at supporting and developing international and regional capacity to help enfranchise migrants to participate in their home country political processes.

Welcome: This is the first edition of the IOM PRESS Migration and Elections Bulletin. The bulletin aims to provide information on the relationship between migration and the conduct of elections. We also seek to build a network of individuals interested in the nexus between migration and political processes. Please circulate the bulletin and encourage your colleagues to subscribe to future editions, which we aim to distribute approximately once a month.

For more information or to subscribe/unsubscribe please contact us at:
iompresproject@iom.int

We also invite you to send your comments or suggestions regarding the bulletin service.

This edition:

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PRESS Project Updates

PRESS Colloquium Proceedings: On June 12 & 13, 2006, IOM convened the *Colloquium on the Political Rights of Persons Displaced by Conflict* in Geneva, bringing together experts from the democracy and governance, migration and refugee, and human rights communities to consider issues associated with conflict forced migrant (CFM) enfranchisement and identify strategies for building support for CFM voting and political rights. The colloquium participants – representing international agencies, civil society groups, and representatives of governments and national election management agencies – encouraged IOM to continue its work in this area, and proposed a series of next-steps to build on both IOM 's practical experience and its research conducted under the Political Rights and Enfranchisement System Strengthening Project. The Colloquium Proceedings can be found at:

<http://www.geneseo.edu/~iompress/?pg=colloquium.html>

Development of Guidelines: The PRESS team has assembled an advisory panel representing international agencies and civil society groups to work towards the development of guidelines on the participation of conflict forced migrants in elections. The guidelines will make recommendations on CFM political participation based on IOM 's experience administering voting programs, human rights obligations and election standards initiatives.

The guidelines will reflect the consensus reached at the Geneva Colloquium* to support conflict forced migrants having access to the conduct of the public affairs of their state on an equal basis with all other citizens during their displacement as well as during their return, resettlement and reintegration.

*IOM Colloquium on the Political Rights of Persons Displaced by Conflict, Geneva , June 2006

News Headlines

Congo: Observers Praise Poll. October 31. Observers at the Democratic Republic of Congo's landmark presidential run-off have generally praised its organization, despite some disruptions.

Philippines: Voting via mail likely in 39 more countries by 2007
October 17 – Overseas Filipinos spread in four continents who have registered for the national elections next year are expected to vote by mail, a

Philippine foreign affairs executive said.

Mauritania: NGOs seek return of refugees before elections October 14 – A consortium of Mauritanian NGOs is seeking the return of their “deported” compatriots to enable them to vote during the upcoming elections.

Ecuador: Expatriate Ecuadorians to vote Sunday in homeland elections October 13 – For the first time, expatriate Ecuadorians -- including nearly 2,000 registered in Miami -- will have a chance to vote on Sunday in their homeland's presidential elections.

- ◆ **Ecuador: IOM Observes Out-Of-Country Voting for Presidential Election** October 17 – On 15 October, IOM served as an international observer of the first electoral process abroad for Ecuador 's presidential elections. A second round will be held on November 26, and IOM will also observe the electoral process.

Bulgaria: 1,000 ballots printed for Bulgarian elections abroad October 11 – A total of 143 polling stations will be opened abroad, 43 of them in Turkey .

Côte d'Ivoire: IDPs face deepening protection crisis as political tensions rise again October 9 – With the impossibility of holding elections by 31 October as scheduled, and the unwillingness of politicians to unblock the deepening impasse in the peace process, Côte d'Ivoire's 750,000 IDPs are increasingly in need of protection and assistance.

Bahrain: Allegations fly ahead of Bahrain Polls October 5 – Opposition parties accuse the government of doling out citizenship and voting rights to migrants from other Arab countries as well as Pakistan , Bangladesh and India to dilute the power of the Shiite majority.

Reports and Analyses

◆ **UN Representative on IDPs reports to UN General Assembly** The UN Representative on the human rights of IDPs, Walter Kälin, presented his annual [report](#) to the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly on 23 October 2006.

OSCE/ODIHR, Statement of Preliminary Findings and Conclusions on the October 2006 General Elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina October 2 (pdf)

Human Rights Committee: [Human Rights Committee Considers report of Bosnia and Herzegovina](#) October 19

Internal Displacement Monitoring Center: [Nepal Update](#) October 16

Inter-Agency Standing Committee [Protecting Persons Affected by Natural Disasters](#)