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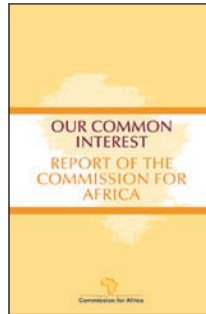
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*IFES is an international, nonprofit organization that supports the building of democratic societies. As one of the world's premier democracy and governance assistance organizations, IFES provides targeted technical assistance to strengthen transitional democracies. Founded in 1987, IFES has developed and implemented comprehensive, collaborative democracy solutions in more than 100 countries.*

# Resources for the Professional

**ARTICLES & PAPERS**

**OUR COMMON INTEREST:  
REPORT OF THE COMMISSION FOR AFRICA**  
11 March 2005  
[www.commissionforafrica.org](http://www.commissionforafrica.org)



U.K. Prime Minister Tony Blair established the Commission for Africa in 2004 to identify Africa's most serious needs and address them with a coherent package of aid through a partnership with developed nations "based on mutual respect and solidarity." Its report is the result of a year-long process of meetings between Commission members and Africans. For key areas—education, AIDS, debt, conflict and corruption—the Commission recommends concrete financial goals for both African nations and donor countries related to aid, debt forgiveness and trade liberalization. Its recommendations for 100% debt forgiveness for certain countries, removal of trade barriers with the West, and a dramatic increase in grants to Africa by G8 nations are expected to provoke controversy.

**THE CONGO'S TRANSITION IS FAILING:  
CRISIS IN THE KIVUS**  
30 March 2005  
[www.crisisgroup.org](http://www.crisisgroup.org)

The democratization process that began in Congo (then Zaire) in 1991-92 is at risk given the political stalemate in Kinshasa and new military tensions in the Kivus, the birthplace of recent wars that wreaked havoc on the region. In its second year, Congo's transitional government has become the focus of power struggles among political players, who now fight over legislation and state appointments rather than turf. In the eastern Kivus region, tensions between Hutus and Tutsis are again rising as political actors in Kinshasa and Rwanda attempt to twist politics to their benefit. Some one million people are already displaced from the Kivus region—1,000 of whom are dying daily as a result of this humanitarian crisis—and these new tensions raise the specter of renewed ethnic violence. Noting that the scheduled June 2005 elections are in doubt, the report offers advice to domestic and international players about how best to keep the transition on track.

**FILMS**

**INVISIBLE CHILDREN:  
UGANDA'S CHILD SOLDIERS**  
Directed by Jason Russell, Laren Poole and Bobby Bailey  
[www.invisiblechildren.com](http://www.invisiblechildren.com)

The documentary *Invisible Children* highlights the situation of child soldiers in Uganda. Beginning in 1986 (according to the UN), children have been abducted by the rebel group Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) and turned into fighters, porters and sex slaves. The movie offers a snapshot of the lives of children who have escaped the LRA and of others who must leave their homes each night to avoid being abducted.

USA, 2005, 81 mins

**SECRET BALLOT (RAYE MAKHFI)**  
Directed by Babak Payami  
[www.secret-ballot.com](http://www.secret-ballot.com)



In this Iranian comedy, a female polling official travels through remote villages collecting votes on Election Day, accompanied by a disgruntled military border guard. Based on a story idea by Mohsen Makhmalbaf, *Secret Ballot* finds the humor and the humanity in Iran's struggle with democratic reform and the even more difficult road women must travel there.

Iran, 2001, 105 mins. In Farsi with English subtitles.

**CORRECTIONS:**

In John Gould's "Stealing Privatization" (*dal*, Vol. 1, No. 2), we referred to him as an economist. He is, in fact, a political scientist.

In Nadia Diuk's article "Portrait of the Next Generation" (*dal*, Vol. 1, No. 2), we omitted the source of her data, which is based on face-to-face interviews with a representative sample of people aged 16 to 34: 1,250 in Russia, 500 in Ukraine, and 500 in Azerbaijan. Interviews were conducted during November 2002 in Russia and Ukraine and during March 2003 in Azerbaijan. The survey was funded as part of a larger study by Dr. Diuk of post-Soviet leaders conducted under the auspices of the Foundation for Democratic Education. Please contact Dr. Diuk at the National Endowment for Democracy for the precise wording of questions asked.