

■ EDITORIAL

Democracy is more important than incumbency

The run-off presidential elections in Côte d'Ivoire held on 28 November 2010 carried many hopes: after a decade of violence, instability and international peacekeeping efforts, elections were expected to bring to the country a legitimate government and a lasting peace. Today, these hopes seem to have gone to the dustbin, together with the ill-fated bulletin issued by the Ivorian Electoral Commission to announce the results of the elections.



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Vidar Helgesen

By Vidar Helgesen, Secretary-General

■ FOCUS: ELECTORAL JUSTICE



New guide to electoral justice

Posted: December 13, 2010

Recent controversial elections in Côte d'Ivoire, Haiti and Egypt highlight the importance of having robust processes for resolving electoral disputes. Allegations of fraud and incidents of election-related violence have raised doubts in the eyes of many about the integrity of those results. As the post-electoral period unfolds, benchmarks for a credible electoral justice system could easily be tested with the help of a new handbook, *Electoral Justice: The International IDEA Handbook*, just published by International IDEA.

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Electoral justice in Africa: placing trust in informal mechanisms

Posted: December 13, 2010

Informal electoral dispute resolution mechanisms successfully work alongside the formal structures in a number of South African Development Community (SADC) countries.

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Democracy and electoral justice in Latin America

Posted: December 7, 2010

The deepening of democracy in Latin America – a phenomenon that has continued for the past 30 years – has much to do with the credibility of electoral bodies on the continent; particularly those responsible for handling grievances and determining electoral justice.

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Nepal's political parties discuss electoral justice reform

Posted: December 2, 2010

Nepal is currently reforming its electoral dispute resolution (EDR) mechanism as part of the development of its new electoral law. The aim is to have these arrangements included in the new constitution which is expected to be promulgated by May 2011, after which parliamentary elections will be held.

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■ OTHER NEWS

The State of Democracy in Chile: launch of national survey results

Posted: December 10, 2010

The Chilean State of Democracy assessment shows a growing number of people support democracy, yet there is still a degree of support for authoritarian government under certain circumstances.

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Nepalese political parties meet in Stockholm to discuss contentious constitutional issues

Posted: December 10, 2010

Representatives of Nepal's major political parties attended a meeting at IDEA headquarters in Stockholm on 7-9 December 2010 to develop a consensus on a number of contentious issues in the emerging draft constitution being prepared by the Constituent Assembly.

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Programmatic politics

Posted: December 1, 2010

In an effort to identify the best way for parties to engage in reducing poverty and inequality – understanding what incentives drive them and what role external circumstances play – International IDEA has embarked on an initiative to learn and reflect on the role of parties in making and implementing policies for national development.

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Launch: "Philippine Democracy Assessment: Rule of Law and Access to Justice"

Posted: November 15, 2010

The need to improve access to justice for citizens, especially at the local level, was one of the key findings of the fourth Philippines Democracy Assessment. The report was launched in Manila at the National College of Public Administration and Governance, University of the Philippines on 10 November 2010.

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The Arab world becomes a reservoir of knowledge and capacity for State of Local Democracy assessments

Posted: November 25, 2010

Following the conduct of state of local democracy assessments in four countries in the Arab World – Jordan, Egypt, Yemen and Morocco in 2008/2009 – the region is set to be a reservoir of knowledge and capacity for future local democracy assessments in other countries in the Arab world and beyond.

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■ NEW PUBLICATIONS

Philippine Democracy Assessment: Rule of Law and Access to Justice

The need to improve access to justice for citizens is one of the key findings of this report.

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Electoral Justice: The International IDEA Handbook

Examines the concept of electoral justice and how to prevent electoral disputes.

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Political Parties and Parity: The Possible Equation (Spanish)

Provides comparative data on women and men in political parties with the



purpose to inform on the situation and challenges of women's political participation. See also the Gender and Political Parties in Latin America database (www.iadb.org/research/geppal/) upon which this report is based on.



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