

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY OF RESOURCES FOR MEDIA MONITORING IN THE ELECTION CONTEXT

Coliver, Sandra and Patrick Merloe. *Guidelines for Election Broadcasting in Transitional Democracies*. United Kingdom: Article 19, 1994.

Election Reporting: A practical guide to media monitoring. United Kingdom: Article 19, 1998.

Goodwin-Gill, Guy S. *Free and Fair Elections: International Law and Practice*. Geneva: Inter-Parliamentary Union, 1994.

Handbook on Election Reporting: Tips, background and relevant information to help cover the Parliamentary Elections. Bangladesh: Society for Environmental and Human Development (SEHD), 1995.

Lange, Yasha and Andrew Palmer (Eds). *Media and elections: A handbook*. Produced by European Institute for Media. Brussels:Tacis, 1995.

Merloe, Patrick. *Monitoring Media Fairness in Election Campaigns: An Introduction to Basic Issues*. Washington, DC: NDI, 1995.

Mickiewicz, Ellen and Charles Firestone. *Television and Elections*. Queenstown, Maryland: The Aspen Institute, 1992.

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Schnellinger, Lisa. *Free & Fair: A Journalist's Guide to Improved Election Reporting in Emerging Democracies*. Washington DC: International Center for Journalists, 2001.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Robert Norris is a long-time advisor to NDI. He is a Staff Director for the United Nations Foundation and The Better World Campaign. Mr. Norris has worked over the last decade as a political researcher and analyst, representing candidates for numerous national and state offices. He served for five years on the staff of U.S. Congressional Representative Barney Frank (Massachusetts). He also has served as NDI resident representative in Yemen and Slovakia and has assisted NDI programs in a number of other countries. Mr. Norris directed NDI's effort to support the Slovak media monitoring organization MEMO '98, from its inception prior to Slovakia's 1998 elections through the post-election period. He has worked with several other NDI programs, concerning media monitoring and broader electoral support activities. In addition, he served as the principal advisor to media monitoring programs in Guyana with the United Nations Development Program and in Uganda with the Electoral Reform International Services, a London-based nonprofit organization. Mr. Norris received his law degree from The Catholic University of America's Columbus School of Law and completed his undergraduate education at The College of the Holy Cross.

Patrick Merloe is NDI's Senior Associate and Director of Programs on Elections and Political Processes. He oversees the NDI's electoral programs concerning constitutional and law reform, nonpartisan domestic election monitoring, political party efforts to ensure electoral integrity and international election observation. He has participated in or led more than 90 NDI delegations and assistance teams to more than 50 countries, which included assistance to several media monitoring projects. He was co-author, with Sandra Coliver, of *Guidelines for Election Broadcasting in Transitional Democracies*, published by Article 19, the Global Campaign for Free Expression (London), and was co-editor with Ms. Coliver and Ann Naughton of Article 19's volume entitled, *Press Law and Practice: A Comparative Study of Press Freedom in European and Other Democracies*, both of which are designed to assist those concerned with law reform and campaigns for free expression. Prior to joining NDI, Mr. Merloe was an attorney with Heller Ehrman White & McAuliffe, one of San Francisco's largest law firms. Mr. Merloe has taught at the University of San Francisco School of Law and the University of Pennsylvania Law School. He received his law degree from the University of Pennsylvania Law School, conducted graduate studies at the Institute for Policy Studies and completed his undergraduate education at Temple University.

SELECTED NDI PUBLICATIONS ON ELECTION MONITORING

NDI Handbook on How Domestic Organizations Monitor Elections: An A to Z Guide (1995). This handbook provides a comprehensive overview of how to organize a nonpartisan domestic election monitoring effort. It covers: planning and organizational issues; recruiting, training and logistical issues in building a communications network for reporting; various subjects to monitor in the pre-election, election day and post-election periods; and considerations for how the organization and skills developed through monitoring efforts can be applied to non-election activities. The guide is designed for election monitoring by civic organizations but can be used by political parties in designing their efforts to ensure electoral integrity and protect their vote.

Promoting Legal Frameworks for Democratic Elections: An NDI Guide for Developing Election Laws and Law Commentaries, by Patrick Merloe (2002). This guide addresses the importance of developing legal frameworks that promote democratic elections; why it is important for political parties, civic organizations and others to analyze the strengths and weakness of existing and proposed laws affecting election processes; the importance of developing an open and inclusive political process to address those laws so that political competitors may agree on the “rules of the game” and the public can develop confidence in the process. The guide presents the main issues to examine when evaluating the legal framework and over 300 questions to consider, as well as sources of international law on the subject and samples of NDI election law commentaries.

Building Confidence in the Voter Registration Process: An NDI Monitoring Guide for Political Parties and Civic Organizations, by Richard L. Klein and Patrick Merloe (2001). This voter registration monitoring guide addresses: the role of voter registration and the principle types of voter registration systems; why it is important for political parties and civic organizations to monitor these systems; and specific techniques for monitoring processes for collecting names, creating a voter registry and polling station voter lists, correcting errors in the lists and use of the lists on election day.

The Quick Count and Election Observation: An NDI Handbook for Civic Organizations and Political Parties, by Melissa Estok, Neil Nevitte and Glenn Cowan (2002). This handbook addresses the importance of developing systematic observation of vital election day processes, including the quality of voting, ballot counting and tabulation of election results, as well as the projection of electoral results with extremely narrow margins of error and high degrees of statistical confidence. It covers planning and organizational issues, recruiting and training, communications systems, developing a random statistical sample of polling stations for rapid and exacting analysis, analytical techniques and the considerations for the release of quick count findings. The handbook is designed for civic organizations but can easily be used by political parties. It also is designed for use by civic organizations that decide not to undertake projection of electoral results. As an organizer’s guide, it reviews many of the issues covered by NDI’s 1995 “A to Z” handbook.

In addition to these materials, NDI has produced over 300 reports, papers and statements concerning ways in which to promote democratic elections generally and concerning the election process within specific countries. See NDI’s website: www.ndi.org “Access Democracy” and “Global Programs/Elections and Political Processes” for more information about these and other NDI publications

WHAT IS THE RELEVANCE OF THE MEDIA TO DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS?

Democratic elections cannot be achieved unless voters exercise a free and informed choice at the ballot box. The mass communications media provide information that is essential to the choice of most voters. It is therefore important to assess whether the media are meeting their responsibilities to the electoral contestants and the public.

WHY IS MEDIA MONITORING AN IMPORTANT ACTIVITY?

Media monitoring can help demonstrate that political competitors and the public at large should have confidence in the media, electoral authorities and the government that is responsible for providing genuine elections. Shortcomings in media conduct can be identified through monitoring in time for corrective action. Abuse of the mass media's power to affect voter choices also can be documented, which allows the population and the international community to appropriately characterize the true nature of the electoral process.

HOW CAN MEDIA MONITORING BE ORGANIZED, AND WHAT METHODOLOGIES CAN BE USED?

This handbook takes a step-by-step approach to organizing a media monitoring project. It covers considerations in deciding whether to initiate a project, the project's planning and organization, as well as monitoring methodologies. The appendices present examples of monitoring forms, nonpartisanship pledges and codes of conduct, relevant international human rights provisions and sample reports from several media monitoring efforts.

HOW CAN CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS AND JOURNALIST ASSOCIATIONS ACT TO PROMOTE PROPER MEDIA CONDUCT AND A FAIR ELECTION ENVIRONMENT?

The handbook is intended for those concerned with freedom of expression and electoral integrity to help them develop capacities to monitor media conduct and factors affecting the media in electoral contexts. Readers interested in additional election monitoring issues should also refer to NDI's Handbook on How Domestic Organizations Monitor Elections: An A to Z Guide, and other NDI publications.

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