



Contact:
Alix Boucher
(202) 223-5956

For Immediate Release
Washington, DC
April 23, 2007

Board of Directors

Barry M. Blechman
Chairman
DFI International

Linda W. Banton
Lockheed Martin

Lincoln Bloomfield, Jr.
Palmer Coates, LLC

Barbara Davis Blum
BDB Investment
Partnership

Avis T. Bohlen
Retired Diplomat

Richard M. Clarke
CE Partners, LLC

Alton Frye
Council on Foreign
Relations

William C. Harrop
Retired Diplomat

Farooq Kathwari
Ethan Allen, Inc.

Michael Krepon
The Henry L. Stimson
Center

Norman Neureiter
American Association for
the Advancement of
Science

Philip A. Odeen
Retired TRW Executive

Thomas R. Pickering
Hills & Company

Anne C. Richard
International Rescue
Committee

Enid C.B. Schoettle
Consultant in
International Affairs

Jeffrey H. Smith
Arnold & Porter

Larry D. Welch,
General, USAF (Ret.)
Institute for Defense
Analyses

Carroll R. Wetzel, Jr.
Retired Investment Banker

The Henry L. Stimson Center Releases New Study on Fighting Corruption in War-Torn States

A new Future of Peace Operations program study by Alix J. Boucher, William J. Durch, Margaret Midyette, Sarah Rose, and Jason Terry examines corruption in post-conflict environments and summarizes best practices for fighting it. *Mapping and Fighting Corruption in War-Torn States* reviews and consolidates expert opinions on combating corruption in post-conflict situations, with particular attention to how this struggle interacts with peace operations. In war-torn states, corruption can hinder economic growth and spark old and new grievances, jeopardizing fragile peace.

Until recently, fighting corruption was not even recognized as a necessary component of successful institution building in post-conflict states. *Mapping and Fighting Corruption*, however, traces deep patterns of corruption in such environments and identifies five key contributing factors: the persistence of wartime power structures; weak border security that allows illegal movement of people and goods; a strong informal economy; weakened, resource-starved public administration; and wasted, misspent, or mistargeted reconstruction aid.

Fighting corruption, as the study's review of best practices finds, requires a multi-sector approach with early emphasis on reforming the criminal justice system as well as legislative and political institutions. Free and fair elections, a vibrant civil society, and a vigilant free press further ensure that the leadership remains committed to and invested in anticorruption strategies. Finally, enhanced border security can help undermine black markets, provide security for legitimate trade, and raise customs revenues for the government.

The authors look at the example of the groundbreaking efforts of Liberia and its partners—including UN agencies, the World Bank, NGOs and donor countries—to combat corruption and institute good governance following 14 years of civil war. Even with such innovative strategies, Liberia faces tremendous challenges. Indeed, “the fight against corruption,” notes Stimson Center Senior Associate William Durch, “looks a lot like the struggle to rebuild a legitimate state, and both must happen if either is to succeed.” The study will be of interest to all those interested in how combating corruption contributes to state-building and establishing lasting peace.

Mapping and Fighting Corruption is the first report in a five-part series on the rule of law in post-conflict states, produced by the Henry L. Stimson Center's Future of Peace Operations program. Visit the program website <http://www.stimson.org/fopo> to download the study and learn more about the program.

The Future of Peace Operations program evaluates and helps advance US policy and international capacity for peace operations. Founded in 1989, the Henry L. Stimson Center is a nonprofit, nonpartisan institution devoted to enhancing international peace and security through a unique combination of rigorous analysis and outreach.