



# MADRE

speaks

Fall 2004

## CONFRONTING THE BUSH AGENDA Reasserting Women's Human Rights



# From the Executive Director

**VIVIAN STROMBERG**

It's been only a few weeks since the presidential elections, but the dangers of another Bush term are already palpable: more "regime change," worsening poverty and inequality, a concerted attack on sexual and reproductive freedom and other basic rights, more violations of international law, and the institutionalization of a fundamentalist worldview.

With the election evidently determined by evangelical voters possessed by fears of gay marriage, Republicans are claiming that the real division in the US is over "moral issues." This is propaganda. Homophobia may be the Republican wedge issue *du jour*, but the reason they need a wedge at all is to shift attention from real divisions, like the growing gulf between the super-rich and everyone else. Besides, who decided that "moral issues" are defined by the Republican mantra of "God, guns and gays?" Isn't the war in Iraq a moral issue? Isn't providing health care to children a moral issue? What about combating AIDS and poverty and armed violence around the world? We refuse to cede the moral arena to those mouthing the rhetoric of "compassionate conservatism." After all, our work for social justice is fundamentally an ethical proposition, moral without being moralistic.

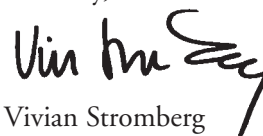
Since Bush's victory, MADRE has received phone calls and e-mails from our sister organizations around the world. These messages are both condolences and appeals to redouble our efforts on behalf of women's human rights at a time when this work is needed more than ever. Our sisters say that MADRE is a touchstone for them—a link to people in the US who represent a sane and humane alternative to "Bushism." They extend their thanks to each of you for standing with them.

I have assured our sisters that MADRE will confront Bush's multifaceted fundamentalism by stepping up our fight for the human rights of all women and their families. We will oppose Bush's religious fundamentalism by defending the principles and institutions of secular democracy—here in the US and in Iraq, Palestine, Nicaragua, and everywhere that our sisters are threatened by religious extremists. And we will fight Bush's economic fundamentalism, a doctrine in which dogma trumps reality with the claim that boosting profits for the already-rich somehow benefits the world's majority.

There is no doubt that the 2004 elections were a critical loss. But more opportunities to create change will emerge. We need to be prepared to recognize those moments and use them wisely. No White House has enacted progressive policies without pressure from citizens acting together through organizations like MADRE. That's why it's crucial now to be able to do more than just document and condemn Bush's abusive policies over the next four years. We need to propose viable alternatives to those policies and work with our sisters around the world to make those alternatives a reality.

This is MADRE's promise to our sister organizations and to you, our members: to maintain our commitment to human rights and social justice despite Bush's hostility to basic rights; to stand as an alternative to a worldview that sees safety in domination and morality in repression; to be at once rational and passionate in our analysis and our program-building; and to utilize every opportunity to fight for what we know is right.

Sincerely,



Vivian Stromberg  
Executive Director

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MADRE is an international women's human rights organization that works in partnership with women's community-based groups in conflict areas worldwide. Our programs address issues of armed conflict and forced displacement; women's health and reproductive rights; economic justice and community development; Indigenous Peoples' rights and resources, food security and sustainable development; human rights advocacy; youth; and US foreign policy. MADRE provides resources and training to enable our sister organizations to meet immediate needs in their communities and develop long-term solutions to the crises they face. Since we began in 1983, MADRE has delivered over 21 million dollars worth of support to community-based women's groups in Latin America, the Caribbean, the Middle East, Africa, the Balkans, and the United States.

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MADRE  
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# Confronting the Bush Agenda

## Reasserting Women's Human Rights

by YIFAT SUSSKIND  
Associate Director

One demoralizing aspect of the Bush legacy is the extent to which our public conversation about foreign policy has been degraded. After four years of Bush, the notion of a government that doesn't torture prisoners, violate the UN Charter, deny women's rights, try to invent "usable" nuclear weapons, or pander to religious fanatics seems like a beacon of progressive politics. But today's grim reality should not undercut our standards for decent government—or limit our sense of what's possible. Rather, a realistic assessment of the damage done by George W. Bush in his first term should serve as a starting point for demanding change.

With the presidential election behind us, it's time to reassert the human rights priorities of the world's women and families over the corporate profiteering, macho unilateralism, and messianic militarism that have become the driving force of US foreign policy. To that end, we offer this overview of Bush's record in the communities where MADRE works, together with our commitments for responding to current crises and our consistent demands for a rights-based foreign policy that moves us closer to the world we wish to inhabit.



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Bush's foreign policy has consisted mainly of exerting US military and economic might, worsening poverty and armed conflict around the globe.





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US attacks on Iraqi civilians have violated the 4th Geneva Convention, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the US War Crimes Act.

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### IRAQ: Bush's War Against Women and Families

- Bush's war has killed more than 100,000 Iraqis.<sup>1</sup> Bush spent reconstruction money mainly on projects that benefit corporations with ties to his administration (including Halliburton, now under criminal investigation for overcharging the US government for its services).<sup>2</sup>
- Meanwhile, Iraqi homes, hospitals, farms, and water treatment plants remain in ruins. Acute malnutrition has doubled and infectious disease is on the rise.<sup>3</sup> As those primarily responsible for meeting people's basic needs, Iraqi women have been forced to intensify their work hauling water, preparing food, and caring for children traumatized by bombing, disease, and hunger.
- Bush appointee Paul Bremer added reactionary Muslim clerics to the Iraqi Governing Council, empowering leaders with a stated commitment to restricting women's human rights. Now, gangs of religious extremists patrol Iraqi communities, beating and harassing women who do not dress or behave to their liking.
- The US occupation brought a sharp rise in violence against women—including abduction, rape, and "honor killings," in which men murder women relatives who have been "promiscuous" or survived rape.<sup>4</sup>

**MADRE will support three vital women's shelters co-founded with our partner, the Organization of Women's Freedom in Iraq. MADRE will help provide Iraqi women with skills-training to enable them to meet their families' needs, play leadership roles in their communities, and advocate for a secular, democratic, and truly sovereign Iraq.**

**MADRE will continue to call on the Administration to withdraw US troops from Iraq; fund a UN-led reconstruction process that will empower democratic forces, including women's organizations; and renounce control of Iraq's economy and oil resources.**

### HAITI: Bush's Other Regime Change

- Bush pressed the Inter-American Development Bank to cancel more than \$650 million in approved loans to Haiti—the poorest country in the western hemisphere. The freeze on these funds, slated for safe drinking water, health care, and sanitation projects, increased Haitians' vulnerability to Hurricane Jeanne, which killed an estimated 1,500 people in September 2004.
- Bush gave funding and political backing to opposition groups led by former members of the FRAPH death squads that terrorized Haiti from 1991-1994. The opposition deployed gangs armed with US-made weapons and overthrew Haiti's only democratically elected president, Jean-Bertrand Aristide, in February 2004.<sup>5</sup>
- After an interim government with close ties to convicted human rights abusers was installed, Bush lifted a ban on sending weapons to Haiti.<sup>6</sup>



**MADRE will** work with our partner, Zanmi Lasante, to provide comprehensive health care—a basic human right—to Haitian women and families, regardless of their ability to pay. Because good health relies not only on medical treatment but also on access to potable water, food, housing, and education, MADRE will support Zanmi's socio-economic programs for women and their families.

**MADRE will continue to call on the Administration to** acknowledge that international law does not recognize governments installed by coup d'état and that Aristide remains the lawful president of Haiti; respect Haiti's political sovereignty; and rescind US economic policies that generate poverty and political violence in Haiti.

Women in Cange, Haiti, wait outside the MADRE-supported Zanmi Lasante women's health clinic, which provides HIV/AIDS treatment, pre- and post-natal care, vaccinations for women and children, and screening and treatment of sexually transmitted infections and cervical cancer.

### **PALESTINE: US-Endorsed Human Rights Abuses**

- Bush executed the most extreme reversal of US Middle East policy ever, by backing Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's plan to annex much of the West Bank and withdraw unilaterally from Gaza; denying Palestinian refugees' right to return to what is now Israel; and condoning Israel's West Bank settlements, which have been characterized as an obstacle to peace by every US administration since 1967.
- By supporting Israel's military occupation, Bush effectively renounced the UN Charter, which forbids the acquisition of territory by force; and

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At the MADRE-supported Ibdaa Kindergarten in Deheisheh refugee camp, Palestinian boys and girls play and learn in an environment that encourages creativity, mutual respect, and the values of human rights.

### SUPPORT MADRE

Consider naming MADRE in your will. You can make a bequest in several ways: you can specify that MADRE receive a one-time, fixed dollar amount or a percentage of your estate or that, after the other beneficiaries are given fixed amounts, MADRE receive your remaining assets. Contact us to confirm the information you will need when preparing your will.

renounced UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which call on Israel to end its occupation of Palestinian lands in return for security guarantees from its neighbors. These resolutions have long stood as the best hope for a negotiated settlement to the conflict.

- Bush's embrace of Sharon's plan (which entails clearing the Israel-Gaza border) ushered in the deadliest month in Gaza since 2000. In October 2004, Israel cited a need to respond to homemade Palestinian rockets, which had recently killed four Israeli civilians. Israel's army killed more than 150 Palestinians, including at least 27 children; leveled large tracts of farm land; destroyed sewage, water, and electricity lines; and demolished more than 90 homes, leaving 675 people homeless.<sup>7</sup>

**MADRE will** work with the Ibdaa Cultural Center to provide trauma counseling and educational programs to Palestinian refugee youth. MADRE will also work with the Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions to build houses for Palestinian families whose homes have been destroyed by the Israeli army, and bring together progressive Israelis and Palestinians committed to a future of peaceful coexistence.

**MADRE will continue to call on the Administration** to join the international consensus regarding Israel's occupation,\* and hold both the Israeli and Palestinian leaderships accountable to international human rights standards and humanitarian law protecting civilians in war zones.

\* This consensus, first articulated in a 1976 UN resolution, has been the basis of numerous peace plans accepted by the Palestinian leadership but rejected by Israel and the US. The resolution called on Israel to withdraw from the occupied territories and guaranteed the right of all states in the region, including Israel and a Palestinian state, to peace and security within recognized borders. The resolution was supported by virtually the entire world (the leading Arab countries, the PLO, Europe, the Soviet bloc, and the non-aligned countries), but opposed by Israel and vetoed by the US.

### CUBA: From Bad to Worse

- Bush eliminated or restricted the type of travel licenses that allowed MADRE and other organizations to bring educational delegations to Cuba.
- Bush cut family visits for Cuban-Americans and Cubans living in the US from once a year to once every three years, and restricted visits and remittances<sup>8</sup> to immediate, as opposed to extended, family members. These provisions deny Cubans millions of dollars worth of support on which they depend for basic necessities, such as medicine (unavailable largely due to the US embargo).
- Bush added nearly \$90 million in funding for Cuban opposition groups and propaganda efforts to unseat the Cuban government.<sup>9</sup>



**MADRE will** work to deliver life-saving medicines and medical supplies to combat AIDS, breast cancer, pediatric diseases, and other public health threats exacerbated by the US embargo against Cuba. And MADRE will work to repeal the US regulations that deny many US organizations, including MADRE, the right to bring delegations of US citizens to Cuba.

**MADRE will continue to call on the Administration to** normalize US relations with Cuba and end the US travel ban and the 42-year-old embargo, which threaten the health and welfare of Cuban women and families.

### COLOMBIA: Using the US Military to Boost Investor Confidence

- Bush overhauled US policy on Colombia to allow military aid (previously allocated exclusively for anti-narcotics operations) to be used by Colombia's military directly against guerilla groups.
- Bush dispatched US Special Forces operatives and slated \$98 million to train and equip Colombian soldiers to guard pipelines and facilitate oil exploration largely for US-based companies.<sup>10</sup>
- Bush praised Colombia's military, which is accused of human rights abuses and cooperation with paramilitary death squads. In fact, paramilitary activity has increased dramatically in areas patrolled by US and Colombian troops: rates of civilian deaths and forced displacement have nearly doubled under Bush's policy and record numbers of people have been disappeared.<sup>11</sup>
- Threatening to withdraw military aid, Bush bullied Colombia and over 90 other countries into signing an agreement to guarantee US citizens immunity from prosecution by the International Criminal Court.\*<sup>12</sup> Bush thus severely undermined efforts to hold Colombia's government (and many others) accountable to international law protecting the rights of civilians in war zones.

**MADRE will** work with our partners, Taller de Vida and LIMPAL, to provide trauma counseling and local, sustainable economic development projects for displaced Afro-Colombian and Indigenous women and youth; and to promote peaceful resistance and demand justice for women who have been displaced from their homes, including legal recognition that would entitle them to government services.

\* *The International Criminal Court (ICC), established by the 1998 Rome Statute, is the first permanent international tribunal to prosecute individuals for genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and crimes of aggression. The ICC represents a significant advance in women's human rights. While relegated to lesser crimes in the past, several forms of violence against women—including rape, sexual slavery, enforced prostitution, forced pregnancy, enforced sterilization, and sexual violence—will now be prosecuted as war crimes and crimes against humanity. For the first time, gender-based persecution is considered a crime against humanity. In 2002, Bush withdrew US support of the ICC.*



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Nearly three million Colombians have been driven from their homes in the 40-year, three-way war between Colombia's military, paramilitary forces and guerrillas.

## SUPPORT MADRE

**DONATE YOUR MILES TO MADRE**  
MADRE is urgently in need of frequent flyer miles to facilitate human rights trainings in the countries where we work. If you have enough miles for a free ticket, please contact us at (212) 627-0444 to find out how you can help.



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More than a decade after the initial Zapatista uprising, Indigenous Peoples in Chiapas continue to resist the attack on their traditions and territories.

## SUPPORT MADRE

There are many creative ways to give to MADRE. Options include establishing a charitable trust or gift annuity, creating a pooled income fund or taking advantage of the sale of a company. We can work with you and your financial planner to explore these and other giving options.

**MADRE will continue to call on the Administration to stop fueling Colombia's war; acknowledge that there is no military solution to Colombia's conflict; and support a negotiated settlement that addresses the poverty and inequality at the root of Colombia's crisis.**

### CHIAPAS, MEXICO: US Funds Forced Displacement

- Bush doubled military aid to Mexico and ignored human rights violations committed with US funds.<sup>13</sup> Under Bush, the Mexican military has used US aid to force Indigenous communities from their lands to make way for the exploitation of natural resources, particularly by US-based oil and pharmaceutical companies close to the Bush Administration.
- In Montes Azules, one of the world's most biodiverse areas, displacement is carried out under the guise of environmental conservation.

US military aid funds the expulsions while the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and Conservation International (CI)—a group formed by several US-based corporations, including McDonalds and Starbucks—are using satellite imagery and “overflights” to target Indigenous communities for displacement.<sup>14</sup> CI is also accused of forced sterilization of Indigenous women with the intention of “depopulating” Montes Azules for corporate investment.<sup>15</sup>

- Bush pushed forward Plan Puebla-Panama (PPP) to establish a giant network of highways and railroads and develop the oil and electric industries from Mexico to Panama. PPP would bring *maquilas* (sweatshops) to Chiapas, taking advantage of rising unemployment created by NAFTA; privatize land collectively owned by Indigenous communities; displace tens of thousands more poor families; and encourage biopiracy, whereby pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies hijack Indigenous knowledge of medicinal plants and patent them for corporate profit.

**MADRE will work with our sister organization, K'injal Antzetik, to support the opening of a human rights training center for Indigenous women in Chiapas; provide trainings in leadership and sexual and reproductive rights for Indigenous women; and support income-generating and food-security projects for their families. MADRE will work with our partner, ELIGE, to support youth advocacy for sexual and reproductive rights and demand justice in the unsolved murders of over 300 women—most of whom worked in *maquilas*—in Ciudad Juarez and Chihuahua, Mexico.**



**MADRE will continue to call on the Administration to** condition US military aid to Mexico on compliance with international human rights standards and stop USAID participation in the displacement of Indigenous communities; create trade policies that prioritize sustainable development over corporate greed; and ratify the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, which protects the intellectual and cultural heritage of Indigenous Peoples.<sup>16</sup>

### **KENYA: Ideology and Greed Trump Women's Health**

- Bush reinstated the “global gag rule,” denying US funding to health-care organizations worldwide that provide abortions or abortion counseling or advocate legalizing abortion. In Kenya, seven clinics were forced to close because of the “gag rule.”<sup>17</sup> Thousands of poor women relied on these clinics for primary health care, including PAP smears, vaccinations for their children, malaria screening, and HIV/AIDS services. Moreover, Bush's cuts to family planning programs led to more unwanted pregnancies and more illegal, unsafe abortions, which kill 5,000 Kenyan women each year.<sup>18</sup>
- Bush's promise to spend \$15 billion fighting AIDS worldwide, particularly in Africa and the Caribbean, was a scam. Most of the \$15 billion was money that Bush cut from existing programs and reallocated to his own initiative.<sup>19</sup> Bush's own budget request for the program's first year was \$1 billion less than the promised installment of \$3 billion.<sup>20</sup>
- Bush's initiative actually undermines international efforts to combat AIDS by: replicating efforts of the UN Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria; pushing ideologically motivated abstinence programs instead of the proven “safe sex” approach; and relying on expensive drugs patented by US pharmaceutical companies instead of lower-cost generics.
- Bush's use of AIDS policy to placate his extremist religious base and his cronies in the pharmaceutical industry is a catastrophe in Kenya, where a staggering 15 percent of the population lives with HIV/AIDS. Kenyan women comprise 60 percent of those living with HIV/AIDS and are twice as likely as men to become infected.<sup>21</sup>

**MADRE will** work with our partner, the Indigenous Information Network, to offer trainings for Kenyan women and girls on HIV/AIDS, reproductive health, and the rights to refuse early marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM)—human rights violations that increase women's risk of contracting HIV.

**MADRE will continue to call on the Administration to** repeal the “gag rule” and bring its international family planning policy into compliance with the UN International Conference on Population and Development Program of Action, which affirms sexual and reproductive rights as human rights; honor the 2001 Doha Declaration facilitating the export of generic AIDS drugs; and support the work of the UN Global Fund as the leading world organization in the fight against AIDS.



On September 29, 2004, MADRE's friend and partner FannyAnn Eddy was murdered. Fannyann was the head of the Sierra Leone Lesbian and

Gay Association (SLLAGA). She represented MADRE at the 60th session of the United Nations Human Rights Commission in Geneva, testifying eloquently about the struggle for sexual rights. Fannyann's murder is a brutal reminder of the prevalence of violence against lesbians and gays and against those committed to furthering sexual rights as human rights. MADRE honors FannyAnn's life by strengthening our resolve to make sexual rights and all human rights a reality for all people worldwide.

### **SUPPORT MADRE**

Name MADRE as a beneficiary of an IRA, 401(K), or insurance policy. MADRE can work with your employer, bank, or financial planner to implement this.



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This year, MADRE provided support for the completion of a new computer literacy and human rights training center in Barcenas, Guatemala.

### Volunteer Overseas with MADRE!

MADRE arranges for bilingual, culturally competent professionals to volunteer with our sister organizations in Nicaragua, Palestine, Kenya, Guatemala, Mexico, and Peru. For more information on MADRE's Sisters Without Borders program, visit [www.madre.org/travel/swb.html](http://www.madre.org/travel/swb.html) or email [travel@madre.org](mailto:travel@madre.org).

### MADRE's Helping Hands Campaign

collects eyeglasses, Spanish-language children's books, and health and hygiene supplies for women and children in Latin America and the Caribbean. To find out how you can get involved, visit [www.madre.org/ha/helphands.html](http://www.madre.org/ha/helphands.html) or email [meds@madre.org](mailto:meds@madre.org).

### GUATEMALA: Rewarding Right-Wing Violence

- Bush skirted a Congressional ban on military aid to Guatemala as part of a pattern of rewarding governments for cooperation in the “war on terror” regardless of their human rights record.<sup>22</sup> Since Bush stepped up funding and training of Guatemala’s army, *campesinos*, Indigenous communities, union leaders, journalists, and human rights activists have been increasingly targeted for murder and political intimidation by right-wing groups with ties to the military. There has also been an alarming increase in violence against women—primarily poor and Indigenous—including rape, torture, and extrajudicial killings, that human rights organizations link to a larger pattern of violations against Indigenous communities and social justice activists. An average of 41 women are killed each month and more than 1,300 women have been murdered since 2001.<sup>23</sup>
- Bush pushed hard for the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA), which would extend the ravages of NAFTA into Guatemala and the rest of Central America. CAFTA was negotiated in secret without the input of civil society, and now awaits final approval from each country’s legislature. In Guatemala, where poverty and inequality are among the worst in Latin America, CAFTA will further impoverish and displace small, *campesino*, and Indigenous farmers unable to compete with large agribusiness and US subsidies; create many more *maquilas* and labor-rights violations; threaten food security by wiping out local production; and jeopardize already limited access to clean water, health care, and education, which will be privatized.

**MADRE will** work with the Barcenas Maquila Workers’ Committee to improve women’s capacity to document and combat human rights abuses in the workplace; meet the immediate needs of *maquila* workers and their families; and create a new computer literacy and human rights training center. MADRE will continue to support income-generating projects for Indigenous women in partnership with our sister organization, T’al Nán K’oi. And MADRE will develop a parents’ education and health-care project for Indigenous Peoples with our partner, the Rigoberta Menchú Tum Organization, to support parents as they learn to advocate more effectively for their own and their children’s rights.

**MADRE will continue to call on the Administration to** maintain the ban on US military aid to Guatemala; dissolve CAFTA and other free-trade agreements that rob the poor of rights and resources; and hold the Guatemalan government accountable for prosecuting current and past human rights violations and fulfilling its obligations under the 1996 Peace Accords concerning land reform, demilitarization, and the rights of Indigenous Peoples.

ENDNOTES

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- <sup>4</sup> See MADRE's "One Year Later: Women's Human Rights in 'Liberated' Iraq," [www.madre.org](http://www.madre.org).
- <sup>5</sup> See MADRE's "Abducting Democracy: A MADRE statement on Haiti's 33rd Coup d'Etat," [www.madre.org](http://www.madre.org).
- <sup>6</sup> Jim Lobe, "US Lifts Arms Embargo on Haiti as Tensions Mount," *OneWorld.net*, October 20, 2004; "Haiti: Powell Should Back Rebel Prosecutions," Human Rights Watch, April 5, 2004; "Haiti: Perpetrators of past abuses threaten human rights and the reestablishment of the rule of law," Amnesty International, March 3, 2004.
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- <sup>11</sup> Virginia M. Bouvier, "Colombia Quagmire: Time for U.S. Policy Overhaul," Interhemispheric Resource Center Americas Program Policy Brief, September 2003; and "Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the Human Rights Situation in Colombia," February 2003.
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- <sup>13</sup> "Blurring the Lines: Trends in U.S. military programs with Latin America," a joint publication from the Latin America Working Group Education Fund, the Center for International Policy, and Washington Office on Latin America, September 2004.
- <sup>14</sup> Aziz Choudry, "Conservation International: privatizing nature, plundering biodiversity," *Seedling*, Genetic Resources Action International (GRAIN), October 2003.
- <sup>15</sup> Hermann Bellinghausen, "They Want to Clear the Indigenous Out of Montes Azules," *La Jornada*, March 26, 2002.
- <sup>16</sup> Article 8(j) of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, entitled "Traditional Knowledge, Innovations and Practices," calls upon states to "respect, preserve and maintain knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and promote their wider application with the approval and involvement of the holders of such knowledge, innovations and practices and encourage the equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of such knowledge, innovations and practices."
- <sup>17</sup> "Access Denied: The Impact of the Global Gag Rule in Kenya," The Global Gag Rule Impact Project; Nicole Itano, "Africa's Family-Planning Funding Drought," *The Christian Science Monitor*, November 5, 2003.
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**MADRE will continue to advocate at the local, national, and international level to hold all governments accountable to international human rights law.**

## SUPPORT MADRE

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## US Elections

MADRE led a coalition of national organizations to urge the US Congress to invite a team of international observers to monitor the 2004 US presidential elections. Although the effort drew fire from conservatives and was ultimately derailed by the Bush Administration, it helped ensure a substantial monitoring presence by the Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). The controversy and debates surrounding the issue of international election monitors were widely publicized in the press.

### NEW SISTER ORGANIZATION

## Haiti

MADRE has initiated a partnership with Zanmi Lasante, a community-based health care center co-founded by Partners in Health in the rural district of Cange, Haiti. MADRE supports Zanmi Lasante's innovative HIV/AIDS program, which provides life-saving antiretroviral medication to hundreds of HIV-positive patients. MADRE is also providing support for Zanmi Lasante's women's health clinic, which provides pre- and post-natal care, vaccinations for women and children, and screening and treatment of sexually transmitted infections and cervical cancer to women who have no other source of health care available to them.

## MADRE Launches a New Website! [www.madre.org](http://www.madre.org)

### INCLUDING:

- **ARTICLES AND RESOURCES:** In-depth analysis from MADRE on a broad range of women's human rights issues.
- **COUNTRY PROFILES:** Information on the politics and social movements of the countries where MADRE works.
- **NEWS AND VIEWS:** Breaking news and analysis from the progressive community worldwide, updated daily.
- **SISTER ORGANIZATIONS:** In-depth information on our sister organizations around the world and their work with MADRE for women's human rights.

We've also expanded our Spanish site, created new sections on human rights advocacy and Indigenous Peoples, and added a search function. And much more! Please take a look!

### NEW SISTER ORGANIZATION

## Iraq

MADRE has initiated a partnership with the Organization of Women's Freedom in Iraq (OWFI), which is fighting for women's social, political, and economic rights in Iraq. Together, OWFI and MADRE have opened three women's shelters—in Baghdad, Kirkuk, and Erbil—to provide a sanctuary for women who are threatened by rape, "honor killings," and other forms of violence against women. MADRE provided start-up funds to open the shelters, and is now providing resources and support for trainings in women's leadership development.

## Guatemala

MADRE worked in partnership with the Barcenas Maquila Workers' Committee to conduct a women's health campaign, providing free PAP smears, trainings in family planning, and other health services for women who work in *maquilas* (sweatshops) and have no other source of health care. MADRE also sent computers, printers, and other technical equipment to create a new computer literacy and human rights training center in Barcenas, an essential resource in our sisters' ongoing struggle against human rights abuses at their workplaces. Additionally, MADRE facilitated an exchange between the Barcenas Maquila Workers' Committee and Wangki Tangni, our sister organization in Nicaragua. Together, the Barcenas Committee and Wangki Tangni conducted a series of intensive technical trainings at the new computer center for women who work in *maquilas* and their children.

## Nicaragua

MADRE sent two shipments of medicines and medical supplies valued at over \$1.3 million to CADAMUC Clinic on the North Atlantic Coast.

Through our *Sisters Without Borders* program, Dr. Hector Diaz, an OB/GYN from Texas, traveled to the North Atlantic Coast to volunteer with Dr. Wilfred Cunningham of CADAMUC. Dr. Diaz brought donations of critical medical supplies, including a laparoscope, which is used for gynecological surgeries. Dr. Diaz performed surgeries to remove ovarian cysts, and trained Dr. Cunningham in the various uses of the laparoscope. MADRE also sent a medical student from the US to CADAMUC Clinic for one month, to assist doctors in their care of

women and children.

Working with our partner organization, Wangki Tangni (“Flower of the River” in Miskito), MADRE expanded *Harvesting Hope*, a food-security program that provides chickens and vegetable seeds, along with training in poultry management and organic gardening, to Indigenous families. Families in 12 communities along the Coco River have benefited from the expanded project.

MADRE also sent six sewing machines and over 700 yards of fabric to support the Wangki Tangni Women’s Sewing and Upholstery Collective, and provided this year’s salary for a nurse to work at the maternity center.

### Kenya

Working in partnership with the Indigenous Information Network, MADRE has initiated a new HIV/AIDS education and prevention program in Indigenous communities in rural districts of Kenya. MADRE provided support for the production of educational posters and pamphlets, and is now providing logistical support—including transportation funds and stipends for teachers—to conduct HIV-prevention workshops at primary and secondary schools.

### Chiapas, Mexico

MADRE provided support for the construction of a new human rights training center for Indigenous women in Chiapas, Mexico. Through the center, MADRE will offer trainings on women’s human rights,



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Leaders of a MADRE-supported weaving cooperative in Chiapas meet outside their office in San Cristobal.

the collective rights of Indigenous Peoples, women’s sexual and reproductive health, women’s political participation, and food security. Community women will be trained in organic gardening and other skills necessary to promote sustainable development and economic autonomy in Indigenous communities. Through our *Sisters without Borders* program, MADRE sent volunteers to K’in al Antzetik to paint the new center, plant organic gardens, and provide administrative assistance as K’in al prepares to open the center.

MADRE also sent a *Voyages with a Vision* delegation

## VOYAGES WITH A VISION

**GUATEMALA:** *January 8-15, 2005* Visit Indigenous communities in the highlands of Guatemala and learn about women’s struggles to end abusive labor conditions in sweatshops in Guatemala City.

**NICARAGUA:** *January 15-22, 2005* Learn about Indigenous and African-descent communities’ efforts to defend their rights and resources on the North Atlantic Coast of Nicaragua. Explore the region’s rich biodiversity and its unique system of autonomy.

**PERU:** *February 2005* Celebrate Carnival in Peru. Participate in a convergence of cultures and meet with community organizers and youth activists struggling for the rights of Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Peruvians in Lima and rural Ayacucho.

**CHIAPAS:** *2005 (dates TBA)* Celebrate Indigenous women’s resistance in Chiapas. Learn about the impact of free trade and militarization on women and families, and Indigenous Peoples’ struggle for autonomy and collective rights.

MADRE organizes specialized study tours and service projects for university students, faculty, independent researchers, and community groups. Please contact [travel@madre.org](mailto:travel@madre.org) or call (212) 627-0444.



to Chiapas. Delegates learned about the impact of free trade and militarization on women and families and participated in exchanges with Indigenous communities.



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## Colombia

Through our sister organization, Taller de Vida, MADRE sent support to *Reinventing Life Through Art*, an art-therapy program that offers classes in acting, painting, music, pottery, video, photography, and dance to former child combatants and other children who have been displaced by war. MADRE also sent support to Taller de Vida's scholarship fund, which pays school fees for children who have no other source of funding for their education.

Ana Elena Obando, an international human rights lawyer, represented MADRE at the International Conference of Women Against War, held in Bogota, Colombia. Ana Elena met with a representative of Colombian President Alvaro Uribe and presented a women's human rights perspective on ending Colombia's 40-year war.

*(left)* In Colombia, MADRE supports an art-therapy program for children who have been displaced by war and poverty.

### A Big Thanks To Our Wonderful Interns!

Aja Badame	Kathleen
Amy Brown	McEldowney
Marylu Espinosa	Aditi Menon-
Joanna Gaughan	Broker
Vivian Jaynes	Katie Miles
Dror Ladin	Lauren Ravon

### Bring a MADRE Speaker to Your Community

If you are associated with a university, high school, religious institution, or community organization that can arrange for an honorarium and cover travel expenses, please contact us at (212) 627-0444 or email [speakers@madre.org](mailto:speakers@madre.org).

### Donate Your Extra Medicines and Medical Supplies to MADRE

The MADRE Medical Project delivers urgently-needed medicines and medical supplies to combat AIDS, breast cancer, pediatric diseases, and other threats to people's health in Latin America and the Caribbean. To find out how you can get involved, visit [www.madre.org/ha/medicalproject.html](http://www.madre.org/ha/medicalproject.html) or call us at (212) 627-0444.

## From the MADRE Bookshelf

### With God On Their Side: How Christian Fundamentalists Trampled Science, Policy and Democracy in George W. Bush's White House

*By Esther Kaplan*

A forceful new book that details the concrete ways in which the Christian right lobby has influenced foreign policy, abortion services, gay rights, AIDS research and treatment, the courts, sex education, and scientific knowledge.

### Undivided Rights: Women of Color Organize for Reproductive Justice

*By Jael Silliman, Marlene Gerber Fried, Loretta Ross and Elena R. Gutiérrez*

An uncompromising response to the escalating and insidious political assaults on reproductive rights—especially for low-income women, young women, and women of color.

### The W Effect: Bush's War on Women

*Edited by Laura Flanders*

In this unique and essential collection, MADRE's Yifat Susskind, Katha Pollitt, Patricia Williams, Barbara Ehrenreich, Jill Nelson, Vandana Shiva, and a host of other frontline thinkers, journalists, and activists employ wit, outrage, and cold, hard facts to expose the "W Effect," a comprehensive incursion into women's rights. Both a harsh reality check and a hopeful starting point for new action, *The W Effect* brings together the premier feminist voices to provide cutting-edge reports; fresh, empowering analyses; and engaging, provocative ideas for the future.



# Give the Gift of MADRE

• Joining hands & hearts with women & families for peace, justice & human rights •



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MADRE design (above) printed wrap-around in red, yellow, purple, and green on an 11 oz. white ceramic mug

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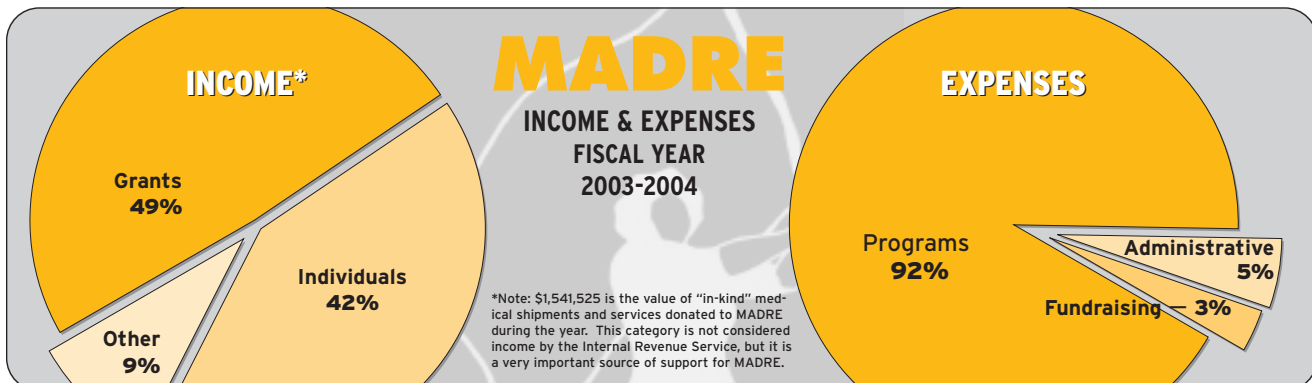
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- GUATEMALA: January 2005  NICARAGUA: January 2005  PERU: February 2005  Chiapas, MEXICO: TBA 2005

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