



Elections Review: Burundi and Rwanda

Wednesday, September 8th from 9:30 to 11:30am
Johns Hopkins School for Advanced International Studies
Kenney Auditorium
1740 Massachusetts Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

Forum Details:

In the third forum in a series focusing on elections, the Great Lakes Policy Forum will review Burundi and Rwanda's recent elections.

In the third forum in a series on elections in the Great Lakes Region, we will evaluate the elections that took place this summer in Rwanda and Burundi. The elections and the events leading up to them have surprised local and international observers and potentially threatened the elections' legitimacy. In a region that is still recovering economically and politically from conflict, the legitimacy of these elections is an important test for democracy. This forum will review the results of the elections, particularly in terms of political party strengthening efforts and electoral issues, and attempt to understand the consequences going forward. What will the 2010 elections mean for open democracy in Rwanda and Burundi? What does this mean for the region? What are the likely long term consequences of the results?

The Great Lakes Policy Forum is open to the public and all comments are on the record but not for attribution.

Speakers:

Rebecca Feeley, Program Officer, National Democratic Institute (NDI)

Nancy Welch, Program Officer, National Endowment for Democracy (NED)

Moderator:

Peter Lewis, Director, Africa Studies Program and Associate Professor, SAIS

Speaker Bios

Rebecca Feeley

Rebecca Feeley is currently a Program Officer for Central and West Africa at the National Democratic Institute (NDI), where she oversees the development and implementation of programs in Burundi and DR Congo. Prior to joining NDI, as the DRC Field Analyst for the Enough Project, Ms. Feeley conducted field research and provided political analysis on the situation in eastern Congo in reference to the 2008 Goma Agreement and Amani Peace Process. She has also worked as an independent consultant in Burundi for the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum and Humanitarian Policy and Conflict Research International, and as a Program Officer for the Clinton Foundation in Rwanda. Ms. Feeley has a B.A. from Smith College and a Master's degree in International Affairs from Columbia University.

Nancy Welch

Nancy Welch is currently an Assistant Program Officer in the Africa program at the National Endowment for Democracy (NED). She oversees and evaluates grants to grassroots civil society organizations in the Great Lakes region, particularly Burundi, eastern DRC, Rwanda and Uganda, where she has worked and traveled extensively. Prior to joining the Endowment, Ms. Welch assisted the financial services and integrated rural development department at ACIDI/VOCA in Washington, DC, and worked on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) and democracy and governance programs at the USAID mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. While living in Dakar, Senegal, Ms. Welch helped design educational programming and promoted regional arms control initiatives at the Mouvement Contre les Armes Légères en Afrique de l'Ouest (MALAO). She holds a B.A. in French and Sociology from Goucher College, MD.

Moderator Bio:

Peter Lewis,

Peter Lewis is Director of African Studies and Associate Professor at the Johns Hopkins University, School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS). His work focuses on economic reform and political transition in developing countries, with particular emphasis on governance and development in Sub-Saharan Africa. He has written extensively on questions of economic adjustment, democratization, and civil society in Africa; democratic reform and political economy in Nigeria; public attitudes toward reform and democracy in West Africa; and the comparative politics of economic change in Africa and Southeast Asia. His most recent book, *Growing Apart: Politics and Economic Change in Indonesia and Nigeria* (University of Michigan Press 2007) is concerned with the institutional basis of economic development, drawing upon a comparative study of Indonesia and Nigeria. Dr. Lewis has published other coauthored and edited books, in addition to articles in *World Politics*, *World Development*, the *Journal of Democracy*, the *Journal of Modern African Studies*, *African Affairs* and others, and numerous book chapters. He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, the Research Council of the International Forum for Democratic Studies, and a Senior Associate at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. He has consulted for the Ford Foundation, the Carter Center, the Council on Foreign Relations, the Pew Forum, Freedom House, USAID, and the World Bank.

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