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# CROSSROADS

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A Newsletter of the United States Embassy, Nigeria

## SAINT-MARY'S CATHOLIC HOSPITAL GWAGWALADA, NIGERIA



**Challenges in Global Health**



## U.S. First Lady Laura Bush Visit to Nigeria January 17 - 18

U.S. First Lady Laura Bush and her daughter Barbara visited Nigeria from January 17 – 18, 2006 to strengthen global healthcare, education and address issues on women empowerment. A major outcome of the First Lady's visit to Nigeria is a U.S. commitment of \$163 million this year to treat people living with AIDS. Below are photos taken by *Idika U. Onyukwu* and the AP White House photographer *Shealab Craighead* on arrival at the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport to the Women Round-table Conferene in Abuja.



*U.S. Ambassador John Campbell meets Laura Bush on arrival.*



*Mrs. Bush on a courtesy call to President Obasanjo in Abuja*



*Mrs. Bush poses with PLWA after donating ARV Drugs and commissioning the Kizito's Complex at St. Mary's Hospital.*



*First Lady Laura Bush joins hands in prayers with People Living with AIDS at St. Mary's Catholic Hospital, Abuja*



*Nigerian women join Mrs. Bush to a Round-table discussion on women empowerment at the Women Center Abuja.*



*Barbara Bush, daughter of Mrs. Bush shares a discussion with Toyin and daughter Bukky who is HIV negative.*

# U.S. - Nigeria Partner Against AIDS



U.S. Embassy  
Country Public  
Affairs Officer,  
Claudia Anyaso

**D**ear Crossroads Family: There is an African proverb that says, "When spider webs unite they can tie up a lion." It is a wonderful way of saying that, "There is strength

in unity." These sentiments were in full evidence during US First Lady Laura Bush's visit to Nigeria, 17 and 18 January. Mrs. Bush came to Nigeria to unite with Nigerians working for the empowerment of women, working for girls' education, and working in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Her first stop was St. Mary's Hospital in Gwagwalada where she interacted with women living with HIV/AIDS, dedicated a new laboratory facility which will perform tests involved with the treatment of HIV/AIDS, and announced the solidarity of the American people with the people

of Nigerian by donating Anti-Retroviral Drugs that will be provided free of charge to Nigerian HIV/AIDS patients.

Mrs. Bush further underscored the commitment of the US Government to ending the HIV/AIDS pandemic in her speech to over 800 Nigerian officials and NGO representatives. In her speech, Mrs. Bush announced that this year the US Government will allocate 163 million US dollars to fight HIV/AIDS in Nigeria. She said, and I quote, "Resources from the United States support many organizations that work on the ground here in Nigeria – faith-based and other humanitarian groups that have long-established relationships with the people of Nigeria."

Other global health care challenges such as polio and malaria are also discussed in this issue. The importance of overcoming these challenges cannot be overestimated. Nor, can the need for united action be overlooked. For the patients involved, having the loving support of family, friends and community is as important as the treatment of the disease.❖

## CROSSROADS

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First Lady Laura Bush shares a happy moment while commissioning Kizito's Complex at St Mary's Hospital Gwagwalada, Abuja. At left of the First Lady is Faith Uche, an HIV positive person with daughter Bukky, who is HIV negative..

## U.S. First Lady Laura Bush Ends Africa Trip in Nigeria

By Sani Mohammed  
Editor, MAGAMA

U.S. First Lady Laura Bush has reaffirmed U.S. Commitment to help Nigeria treat AIDS and prevent the spread of HIV saying, "We are all hopeful that one day an entire generation will be born free of HIV". Mrs. Bush highlighted these critical areas that need action and announced the \$163 million in U.S. assistance that Nigeria will receive in 2006 in a speech at the National Center for Women's

Development in Abuja on January 18.

Mrs. Bush who was winding up her four-day trip to Liberia, Ghana and Nigeria, talked about attending the inauguration of Liberia's president Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, the first women president elected in Africa, and remembered the legacy of service and compassion left by Mrs. Stella Obasanjo. "Young girls need role models whose lives are examples of achievement," She said, and "President Johnson Sirleaf is an example for young women all over

the world of what can be accomplished through hard work and a strong belief in education and democracy."

Earlier, Mrs. Bush met with President Olusegun Obasanjo and visited St. Mary's Hospital in Gwagwalada, where she presented cartons of anti-retroviral drugs, allowing the clinic to provide antiretroviral drugs free of charge for the first time, for up to 500 patients over the next year as part of U.S.-backed shipment of drugs that St. Mary's Hospital has received

### U.S. - Nigeria Bilateral Relations (Health)



\*\$163 million dollars U.S. commitment in 2006 to battle HIV/AIDS in Nigeria.

\* Under PEPFAR, President Bush has committed \$15 billion over five years to support treatment for 2 million people, support prevention for 7 million, and support care for 10 million Africans.



through President Bush's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief.

Mrs. Bush and her daughter, Barbara, sat under the tree shade at St. Mary's Hospital to hear stories of clinic workers and their patients on their battle with HIV/AIDS. She said, "It's really important for people who are HIV positive to reach out to let people know that they can be tested, they can find out that they can still live a positive and happy life."

Mrs. Bush's focus on education was also emphasized on this trip as she and her daughter visited Model Secondary School Maitama, Abuja, where they spoke with girls who received

U.S.-sponsored Ambassadors Girls' Scholarships that help pay their school fees, uniforms, school supplies and feeding. Mrs. Bush said children — both boys and girls — should have great dreams, and

they should believe in a future where that dream is possible.

Education in Africa is a priority for President Bush. His Africa Education Initiative is a 600 million dollar commitment to provide books, scholarships, school uniforms and teacher training so that more children can attend school. A major goal of

appreciation of their visit.

Mrs Bush also held talks with some of Nigeria's women leaders including Nigeria's Minister of Finance Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala before proceeding to address more than 800 guests at the Women Center Auditorium on issues of women empowerment and national



Mrs. Bush listens to the success story of Toyin, who is HIV positive at St. Mary's Catholic Hospital Gwagwalada, Abuja.

President Bush's Africa Education Initiative is to enroll more girls in school.

Students representing Nigeria's diverse ethnic groups danced for Mrs. Bush and her daughter, Barbara, in

development. Mrs. Bush ended her two-day visit in Nigeria with a meeting with local and American staff at the Embassy compound, Abuja. ❖

<http://nigeria.usembassy.gov>

## U.S. - Nigeria Bilateral Relations (Education)



\*The U.S. Ambassador's Girls Scholarship Program funds over 1,250 disadvantaged girls in Nigeria to attend primary and/or secondary on a four-year scholarship award.

\* The U.S. sponsored Africa Education Initiative program provides funding to train 920,000 teachers in 20 countries in sub-Saharan Africa.



# U.S. Program Brings Aids Treatment to 400,000 Africans

**U**.S. efforts to increase assistance to the world's most AIDS-afflicted nations are now delivering life-saving medicines to approximately 400,000 people, eight times the number receiving treatment three years ago, President Bush said.

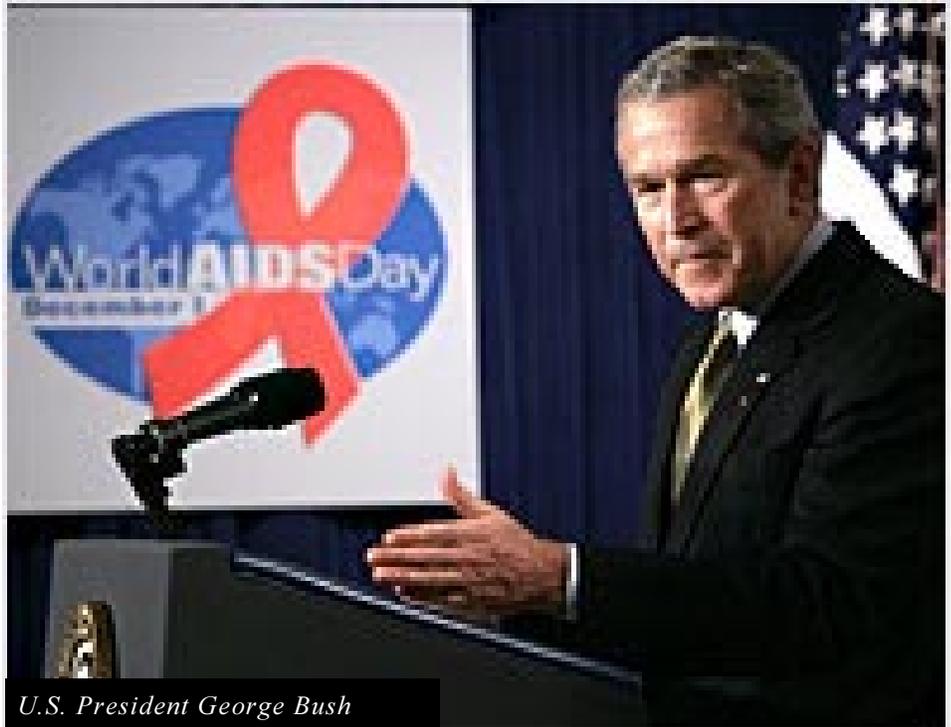
President Bush joined the international community on World AIDS Day December 1 to announce the successes and new initiatives in the U.S. contribution to the global struggle against the epidemic.

In 2003 the United States launched the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), making a five-year, \$15 billion commitment to scale up AIDS treatment, prevention and care.

The president made this announcement with Thandazile Darby and her two children seated behind him. They are South Africans with HIV who are now receiving treatment under PEPFAR.

"Thandazile's late husband's relatives tried to support her treatment for as long as they could, but the cost was too high," Bush said. "Thanks to the Emergency Plan funds, the Darbys began to get the treatment they desperately needed. Soon these children will start school — and now their mom dreams that someday they will attend college."

Joined by first lady Laura Bush, many members of his Cabinet and



*U.S. President George Bush*

members of Congress in a White House ceremony, the president announced a new component of PEPFAR called the New Partners Initiative to promote greater U.S. partnership with faith-based and community-based organizations as they work to treat and support HIV-infected persons, and prevent further transmission of the disease.

"We will further reach out to our faith-based and community organizations that provide much of the health care in the developing world and make sure they have access to American assistance," Bush said.

"By identifying and supporting these organizations, we will reach more people, more effectively and save more lives."

A Ugandan physician who has been a U.S. partner in scaling up AIDS treatment also participated in the World AIDS Day event. President Bush introduced Dr. Peter Mujenyi, who has received U.S. support to open clinics for treatment of AIDS patients.

"Today there are 35 sites, many of them in remote rural areas that provide treatment to 35,000 of his countrymen," said Bush. ❖

## WORLD AIDS DAY: WINNING THE BATTLE ON AIDS



**\* Wins:** 600,000 HIV orphans are now in school, 40,000 with HIV/AIDS are receiving care. 5.9 million reached through prevention programs.

**\*Losses:** 3.6 million HIV infected, 310,000 deaths, and 1.8 million AIDS orphans (*UNAID Report 2004*)



# How Do We Nurture the Next Generation of African (Women) Leaders?

*A major highlight of the First Lady Laura Bush's visit to Nigeria was the speech she delivered on January 18, at the National Center for Women Development, Abuja. Below are excerpts of the speech attended by more than 800 guests.*

**T**he women I met today represent different parts of Nigerian society. Some serve in government. Others work for NGOs and international organizations. They all share the same goal, though, which is to give all women in Nigeria the opportunity to contribute to the life of their country.

The people of the United States share your goal, and the women of the United States know your struggle. It was only in the last century, 150 years after our Declaration of Independence, that women attained the vote in the United States. Young girls need role models whose lives are examples of achievement, and today I met some of the role models for Nigeria's girls.

The question we must answer now is how do we nurture the development of the next generation of women leaders in Africa and worldwide. The answer begins with education. Education is the foundation of a happy and healthy life. Educated children grow up to be adults who have more opportunities to work, to support their families, and to fully participate in the life of their communities. It's so important to educate boys and girls, because boys and girls can make important contributions to our world.

Sadly, too many children around the world do not have access to education. The problem is particularly acute in sub-Saharan Africa. More than one-third of primary school-age children are not enrolled in school at all. Of those who do enter the first grade, fewer than half will complete primary school. Books and other learning materials are often in short

supply. It's not uncommon in rural areas to have just one copy of a textbook for a whole classroom. Girls, especially girls in rural villages, are much less likely than boys to attend school, and students who live in poverty have few opportunities for schooling because their parents do not have the money to pay their school fees or buy their uniforms and books.

Education in Africa is a priority for President Bush. His Africa Education Initiative is a \$600 million commitment to provide books, scholarships, school uniforms and teacher training so that more children can attend school. The Africa Education Initiative includes funding to train 920,000 teachers in 20 countries in sub-Saharan Africa. As of December, more than 300,000 new and experienced teachers had received training. The Initiative has also facilitated the shipment of over two million books to African schools and libraries.

A major goal of President Bush's Africa Education Initiative is to enroll more girls in school. To meet that goal, the United States sponsors the Ambassadors Girls' Scholarship Program, which will provide 550,000 scholarships to girls at the primary and secondary level. So far, 120,000 scholarships have been provided in 40 countries. The scholarships pay for tuition, fees, books, uniforms, and other essential supplies.

This morning, I met a student named Glory, in the ninth grade at the Model Secondary School in Abuja. Glory's parents work hard, but they have difficulty paying for schooling for her and her siblings. Thanks to the Ambassadors Girls' Scholarship

Program, Glory is able to stay in school and work with mentors who help her stay on the path to achieving her dreams.

I saw Glory at her school today, and she told me that her dream is to become a doctor so that she can help find a cure for diseases like HIV/AIDS. I'm encouraged by the hopes and dreams of young people. All children should have great dreams, and they should believe in a future where every dream is possible.

The people of the United States are pleased to work with schools in Nigeria to make education a reality for thousands of students. We support these scholarships, because we believe that investing in a child's education will produce benefits many times over in the future.

An educated woman is better able to provide for her family economically, and to be an advocate for her own children's education. She has the knowledge and the skills to find new ways to improve life in her community. She's prepared to be an active participant in society, and perhaps even a national leader.

Educated girls and boys are more likely to know what HIV is and how to prevent infection. Girls who are educated have more economic and social resources to rely on, and therefore can avoid early marriage and have more of a chance to negotiate their own sexual lives. In fact, educated young women have lower rates of HIV/AIDS, healthier families, and higher rates of education for their own children.

**FOR FULL TEXT OF THE SPEECH, VISIT:**

■ <http://nigeria.usembassy.gov> ■



*Ambassador John Campbell (center), and University of Maryland Immunologist John Farley discuss the new laboratory instruments at the Asokoro Laboratory Training Center. Left is Center Director Prof. Ezekiel Akintunde.*

## Reflections on 2005 World AIDS Day

*By Ambassador John Campbell  
U.S. Ambassador to Nigeria*

**W**orld AIDS Day was commemorated on December 1<sup>st</sup> and the International Conference on HIV/AIDS and STIs in Africa (ICASA) has just ended. Both occasions offered an opportunity to highlight successes and remaining challenges in the fight against HIV/AIDS. This year, the international community has many successes to acknowledge. We now have proven methods for combating HIV/AIDS, including effective prevention and behavior-change strategies, fighting stigma and discrimination, and partnering government with civil society. We know that leadership is essential, that

early and effective action can contain and even roll back epidemics and reduce the burdens of disease on families, communities, and nations. Where there used to be a “prevention versus treatment” debate, today few dispute that where lives can be saved, they must be saved. The international community has taken action against the crisis of HIV/AIDS, with vital contributions from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria and other multilateral institutions.

The United States has stepped up to the challenge of global HIV/AIDS with President Bush’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. As President Bush has stated, “in the face of preventable death and suffering, we have a moral duty to act, and we are acting.” The

\$15 billion, five-year initiative is targeted to preventing 7 million new HIV infections, providing treatment medicines to 2 million HIV-positive individuals, and caring for 10 million people living with HIV/AIDS and children orphaned by the disease. The targets in Nigeria are: 1) to treat 350,000 People Living With HIV and AIDS (PLWHA) with ARVs; 2) prevent 1,145,545 new infections; and 3) provide care and support to 1,750,000 HIV-affected individuals, including 1,350,000 on palliative care and 400,000 Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVCs). The Plan increases by \$1 billion our contribution to the Global Fund, bringing total U.S. contributions to \$1.6 billion—almost half of all pledges to the fund to date. It con-



*Ambassador Campbell (left) and Co-discoverer of the HIV virus Robert Gallo, review the 'Program of Events' at the commissioning of Asokoro Laboratory Training Center, Abuja. At right, is Minister of Health Prof. Eytayo Lambo.*

tinues our bilateral assistance to some 75 countries combating HIV/AIDS, and offers \$9 billion in funding to 15 target countries representing 50 percent of the world's population of people living with HIV/AIDS. The initiative represents the largest commitment in history by a single nation for an international health initiative.

And yet enormous challenges remain. Five million people have been infected with HIV in the year since last World AIDS Day. Three million more have died, leaving behind anguished loved ones, abandoned children, ravaged communities. Increasingly, AIDS has a woman's face: women now account for more than half of infections worldwide – and that proportion is growing. In claiming the lives of societies' most productive populations – adults ages 15-45 – HIV/AIDS threatens a basic principle of development – that each generation do better than the one before it. HIV/AIDS has deepened poverty, reduced life expectancy, diverted state resources and left a generation to grow up without the love, guidance and support of parents and

teachers. And in a time when we celebrate the proliferation of democracy, AIDS threatens to wipe out the institutional memory of nascent nations, as civil servants fall prey to AIDS.

There is no doubt that HIV/AIDS represents one of the greatest challenges of our time. Its defeat will require constant and concerted commitment from all of us. In order to maximize the impact of our efforts, the United States is committed to working with governments, civil society groups, and multilateral organizations to achieve the goals of President Bush's plan. The United States cannot achieve these goals on its own, nor should the goals — 7 million infections prevented, 2 million on treatment, 10 million receiving care — represent the limits of what is possible. Working together, these goals should be mere stepping stones to a world in which AIDS is no longer a stranglehold on our future.

Working together requires leaders from every sector—government, community, faith-based, and private—to contribute to the fight against HIV/

AIDS. As donors and partners, the U.S., other countries, and multilateral institutions are willing to do their part. But donors cannot educate all of your children; build, staff and sustain critical health infrastructure; transform the hearts and minds of your fellow citizens; or provide care to every employee or neighbor. We can support your efforts, but the initiative must come from you. Your leaders must be willing, in word and in action, to confront this disease. And therefore you must be willing, in word and in action, to demand it. HIV/AIDS knows no boundaries, it discriminates against no ethnicity, no gender, no age, no religion. It will not ignore you, although you may try to ignore it.

Without intervention, researchers predict that over 75 million people will be infected worldwide by 2010, with a loss of human life to AIDS totaling 100 million by 2020. Let us not make this our world. Let us look back and say that they underestimated our compassion, our resolve, our power to act. Let us consider this World AIDS Day 2005 as the turning point against the disease. ❖

# Laboratory Center Opens for Clinical HIV/AIDS Testing in Nigeria

By Idika U. Onyukwu  
Editor, Crossroads

The absence of a hospital-based laboratory testing Center in Nigeria was addressed on December 9, when the Federal Minister of Health Professor Eyitayo Lambo, Co-discoverer of the HIV/AIDS virus Dr. Robert Gallo, Abuja Health Secretary Amina Zakari representing the Federal Capital Territory Minister, and U.S. Ambassador John Campbell commissioned the Asokoro Laboratory Training Center (ALTC).

Established under the President's Emergency Plan for Aids Relief (PEPFAR) Project, Institute of Human Virology, Nigeria, ALTC is a joint commitment between the U.S. government and Nigeria in providing hospital-based laboratory testing in such areas as HIV serology, hematology, clinical chemistry and CD4 measurement.

In declaring the Center open, Ambassador John Campbell said the ALTC is a successful partnership of two countries that will provide life saving care and treatment to thousands of Nigerians infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. The Center provides training in quality control, HIV serology and diagnosis, blood chemistry Assays, complete blood count, pediatric HIV 1 DNA diagnosis and resistance testing.

Other areas of activity include PEPFAR certification, monitoring and evaluation, and serves as a national and West African Regional Training Center. ALTC is equipped with 26 classrooms, six Portacabins, 2 offices, a generator, a molecular

biology laboratory and a TB Laboratory.❖

**Photo:** Representative of the FCT Minister Hajia Amina Zakari, Dr. Robert Gallo, Minister of Health Prof. Lambo and Ambassador John Campbell unveil the plaque on the Asokoro Lab. Training Center, Abuja.



Students at the Asokoro Lab. Training Center, Abuja.

# Accelerating the Fight Against Malaria

*“The toll of malaria is even more tragic because the disease itself is highly treatable and preventable. Yet this is also our opportunity, because we know that large-scale action can defeat this disease in whole regions. And the world must take that action.” — President George W. Bush*

## The President’s Initiative

**O**n June 30, 2005, President Bush challenged the world to reduce the burden of malaria dramatically as a major killer of children in sub-Saharan Africa, and pledged to increase funding of malaria prevention and treatment by more than \$1.2 billion over five years. The goal of this effort is reduce malaria deaths by 50 percent in each of the target countries after three years of full implementation.

To launch this initiative, the United States will significantly expand resources for malaria in Angola, Tanzania and Uganda beginning in 2006, and will expand to at least four more highly endemic African countries in 2007, and at least five more in 2008. By 2010, the U.S. Government will provide an additional \$500 million per year for malaria prevention and treatment. This effort will eventually cover more than 175 million people in 15 or more of the most affected African countries.

The President makes this commitment as the U.S. contribution to a larger international effort needed to reduce the burden of malaria, and calls on other donors, foundations, public, private, and voluntary organizations to complement United States commitments by providing, by 2008, \$1.2 billion annually in additional funding. These complementary efforts could expand the initiative to reach a total of 650 million beneficiaries and control malaria in the most affected countries in Africa.

These results will be accomplished by helping national governments to achieve 85 percent coverage among vulnerable or high risk populations with proven and effective prevention and treatment interventions, and build on existing national strategies and programs. ❖

## Magnitude of the Problem

**E**ach year, an estimated 300-500 million malaria infections occur with 1.2 million deaths — 85 percent of these deaths occur in sub-Saharan Africa. Although malaria was successfully eliminated in many countries with temperate climates during the 1950s, it remains a major killer in Africa, increasing its toll during the late 1980s and 1990s due largely to the emergence of resistance to commonly used anti-malarial drugs. Today, malaria causes an estimated \$12 billion in economic losses each year in Africa, robbing 1.3 percent from the annual gross domestic product of endemic countries.

## Effective Treatment

**R**ecognizing symptoms and receiving timely and effective treatment are key to saving the lives of children infected with malaria. USAID malaria programs aim to increase the proportion of children with fever who receive prompt treatment with an effective drug within 24 hours. This approach involves:

- \* Improving recognition and treatment-seeking behavior at the household level
- \* Developing national capacity to monitor and review anti-malarial drug efficacy on an ongoing basis
- \* Improving case management at health facilities, especially for severe malaria

In the case of malaria treatment, the emergence and spread of resistance to chloroquine (CQ), the first line antimalarial drug for most of Africa, has resulted in an alarming increase in malaria-related morbidity and death. In most parts of Africa, data suggest CQ treatment failure rates higher than 25% and in some cases up to 80%.



*A woman examines her new Insecticide Treated Net (ITN) for malaria prevention.*

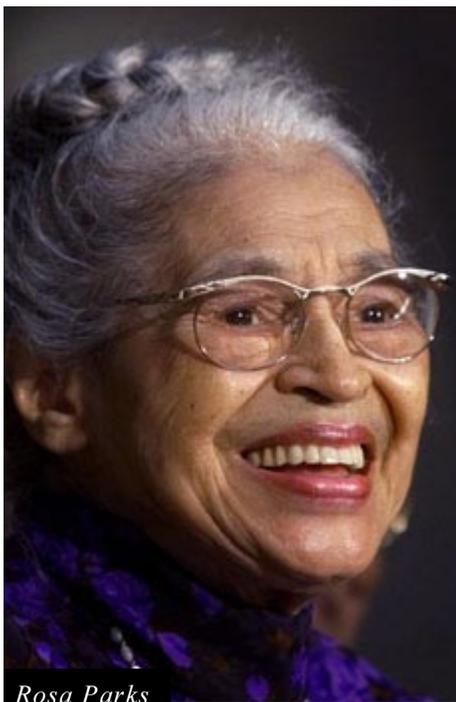
## Effective Prevention and Control

**I**nsecticide-treated netting (ITNs) materials are one of the four key approaches of the *Roll Back Malaria* (RBM) partnership to reduce mortality and morbidity due to malaria. A large body of evidence has documented the substantial impact ITNs can have in malaria-endemic countries: regular use in children can reduce the risk of dying before the fifth birthday by a fifth and the number of clinical episodes by half. The use of ITNs could save more than 800,000 lives annually.

NetMark has succeeded through a strategic combination of “shared risk” and “incentives” to mobilize increased commercial sector investment in the development of ITN markets in Nigeria, Senegal and Zambia. Over the coming years, NetMark looks to expand its commercial partnerships across the region with projected sales of 50 million commercial ITNs over the next five years. ❖

# Remembering Rosa Parks, 40 Years Later

## Challenge to Segregation Ignited Civil Rights Movement



Rosa Parks



striking South Carolina tobacco workers, “We Shall Overcome” became the anthem of the civil rights movement of the 1960s.

Following the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision, the NAACP chose Rosa Parks to attend a desegregation workshop at the Highlander Folk School in Monteagle, Tennessee. Reflecting on that experience, Parks recalled, “At Highlander I found out for the first time in my adult life that this could be a unified society...I gained there the strength to persevere in my work for freedom not just for blacks, but for all oppressed people.”

Although her arrest was not “planned,” Park’s action was consistent with the NAACP’s desire to challenge segregated public transport in the courts. A one-day bus boycott coinciding with Parks’s December 5 court date resulted in an overwhelming African American boycott of the bus system. Since black people constituted seventy percent of the transit system’s riders, most busses carried few passengers that day.

Success demanded sustained action. Religious and political leaders met at the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church and formed the Montgomery Improvement Association (later the Southern Christian Leadership Conference) and Dexter’s new pastor, Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., was appointed the group’s leader. For the next year, the

Montgomery Improvement Association coordinated the bus boycott and the eloquent young preacher inspired those who refused to ride:

“If we are wrong—the Supreme Court of this nation is wrong. If we are wrong—God almighty is wrong! If we are wrong—Jesus of Nazareth was merely a utopian dreamer and never came down to earth. If we are

wrong—justice is a lie. And we are determined here in Montgomery to work and fight until justice runs down like water and righteousness like a mighty stream,” Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., said in Montgomery, Alabama, 1955.

During the boycott, King insisted protestors retain the moral high ground, hinting at his later strategy of nonviolent resistance.

“This is not a war between the white and the Negro but a conflict between justice and injustice. If we are arrested every day, if we are exploited every day, if we are trampled over every day, don’t ever let anyone pull you so low as to hate them. We must use the weapon of love.”

In December 1956 the Supreme Court banned segregation on public transportation and the boycott ended over a year after it had begun. Rosa and Raymond Parks moved to Detroit where, for over twenty years, the “Mother of the Civil Rights Movement” worked for Congressman John Conyers. In addition to the Rosa Parks Peace Prize (Stockholm, 1994) and the U.S. Medal of Freedom (1996), Rosa Parks has been awarded two dozen honorary doctorates from universities around the world. The “Mother of the Civil Rights Movement” died of natural causes on October 24 at her home in Detroit. She was 92 years old. ❖

**O**n the evening of December 1, 1955, Rosa Parks, an African American, was arrested for disobeying an Alabama law requiring black passengers to relinquish seats to white passengers when the bus was full. Blacks were also required to sit at the back of the bus. Her arrest sparked a 381-day boycott of the Montgomery bus system and led to a 1956 Supreme Court decision banning segregation on public transportation.

Rosa McCauley was born in 1913. At age twenty, she married Raymond Parks and with his encouragement earned a high school diploma. The couple was active in the Montgomery Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. While working as a seamstress, Mrs. Parks served as chapter secretary and, for a time, as advisor to the NAACP Youth Council. Denied the right to vote on at least two occasions because of her race, Rosa Parks also worked with the Voters League preparing blacks to register.

Probably first used in 1945 by

# Coretta, "First Lady" of Human Rights Dies at 79

“Today (January 30) our nation lost a beloved, graceful, courageous woman who

called America to its founding ideals and carried on a noble dream. Tonight we are comforted by the hope of a glad reunion with the husband (Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr.) who was taken so long ago, and we are grateful for the good life of Coretta Scott King.” Those were the passionate words President Bush used in announcing the death of Coretta

Scott King. First known as the wife of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., then as a tireless advocate for social and political change, Coretta Scott King died early Monday, January 30. Mrs. King will be remembered for picking up the mantle for racial peace and nonviolent social change for which her husband Dr. King Jr. was assassinated in Memphis April 4, 1968.



## Communities Confront their Fears Using the Global Citizen Module



*Rival community leaders share their fears at the Global Citizen Workshop on "Building The Bridges."*

Nigerians can live together in harmony and do things better if they adopt the Global Citizen Journey module of confronting fear with compassion. “This module is a practical experiment which has helped the Ijaw community

in Oporoza village in Rivers State, Nigeria, to embrace their former foes and Ishekiri neighbors,” says Global Citizen Journey Executive Director, Susan Partnow.

She made the statement at a presentation on the Global Citizen

Journey’s Niger Delta experience which covered the opening of a privately funded library project in Oporoza. “This project will solidify the bond between America and Nigeria while helping to empower local communities to resolve the conflict in the Niger Delta,” she said.

The Event hosted by the American Corner located in the Chief Bola Ige Information Technology Center, Abuja featured power point presentations by Ms. Susan Partnow, Executive, Executive Director of Global Citizen Journey (GCJ), a Seattle, Washington based NGO; Ms. Mary Ella Keblusek, Project Director, Nigeria; and Joel Bisina, Host Country Director and local community facilitator for the Oporoza library project.

The presentation stressed the importance of building peace – one connection, one community at a time. ❖

# Shared Futures: A Gift that Lets Them Live their Lives

**O**n December 8, leaders of seven Women Non Governmental Organizations and a large number of media practitioners joined U.S. Ambassador John Campbell and Nigeria's Minister for Women Affairs Hajiya Inna Mary Ciroma to launch a media awareness program about workshops for youths and women and the distribution of 10,000 educational kits and 1,500 sewing machines in Nigeria. Supported by the U.S. Department State's "Shared Futures" program, these items are to be distributed to disadvantaged communities in 11 States and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Abuja.

Ambassador Campbell who was the guest of honor said the event represents a partnership between the U.S. and the people of Nigeria. He said the broader mandate of the "Shared Futures" program is to improve the quality of life among the underprivileged



*At the 'Shared Futures' media launch, Ambassador Campbell shares a happy moment with other dignitaries including the Minister of Women Affairs Hajiya Inna Mary Ciroma (sitting).*

populations in the twelve states. Abeokuta, Bauchi, Calabar, Enugu, Kaduna, Kano, Ibadan, Lagos, Port Harcourt, Jos, Sokoto and the FCT, Abuja, are the 12 cities benefiting from the program. ❖

## U.S. Embassy Honors IV Alumni Hauwa Abubakar with a Lecture on Women and Development in Nigeria

*By Idika U. Onyukwu  
Editor, Crossroads*

**“W**omen and their Role in Nigeria's Development” was the subject of a lively discussion in a memorial lecture organized by the Public Affairs Section, U.S. Embassy Abuja in honor of Hauwa Abubakar who died in the Bellview crash on October 22.

Speaking on factors that promote women's participation in economic development at the American Corner, Bola Ige Center, Abuja, U.S. Economic Counselor Necia Quast, said her short stay in Nigeria shows that women are the key to development and to unlock the country's economic potential, educating women



*U.S. Economic Counsellor Necia Quast chats with a participant after the Women Development lecture in Abuja.*

and girls should be made a priority.

While gender-based discrimination remains a major obstacle to the Nigerian woman, Quast said micro-credits, and working through cooperative societies in agriculture offer

women the power to make changes and choices about their lives.

Hauwa Maijidda Abubakar was an alumna of the U.S. government-sponsored International Visitor Leadership Program on "Women and Development." She was born on January 25, 1964 in Lagos and was a staff of the Chief Bola Ige Information Technology Center, Abuja. Andrew Sani-Ikilama, Executive Director, Hope for the Blind, says the best way to honor the memory of Ms. Abubakar is to convert those experiences acquired as a participant of the Fulbright, Hubert Humphrey, or International Visitor's program into developmental activities that Hauwa held dear during her short but eventful life. ❖

# Art Exhibition Builds Bridges Between U.S. and Nigeria



*Culture and Tourism Minister Ambassador Frank Ogbuewu and U.S. Embassy Cultural Affairs Officer Shirley Lisenby view one of the paintings at the exhibition at the Hilton Abuja.*

Institutional and cultural ties between Nigeria and the United States were strengthened January 16 – 23 when the works of two American Icons – Jacob Lawrence and Lois Mailou-Jones and six young Nigerian contemporary artists were displayed at the Transcorp Hilton

Hotel as part of this year’s celebrations of the legacy of Reverend Martin Luther King Jr., African American History Month.

In his opening remarks, U.S. Ambassador John Campbell noted that there were many similarities of theme and motif in all the works that harks

back to the rich culture of Africa. “This demonstrates once again the power and universality of art.” Campbell said. Sponsored by the U.S. Embassy and Transcorp Hilton Hotel in conjunction with the National Gallery of Arts Abuja, the art exhibition brought the works of two generations of gifted artists together.

Jacob Lawrence and Lois Mailou-Jones, both African Americans, are well-known artists associated with the Harlem Renaissance, an early 20<sup>th</sup> century period of great outpouring of African American talent in all areas of the arts.

The Nigerian artists included Mohammad Sulaiman, Chinedu Onuigbo, Nduwhite Ndubuisi, Modum-Udok Chika, Agbontaen Stanley Osaheri and Karunwi Kayode. The National Gallery was responsible for mounting the exhibition while the Society of Nigerian Artists president Kolade Oshinowo gave the keynote address at the opening. Nigeria’s Minister of Culture and Tourism Ambassador Frank Ogbuewu took part in the ribbon cutting ceremony. ❖

# International Military Polo Tournament Builds Friendship in Kaduna

International military cooperation received a boost on January 11, when military officers from seven countries - United Kingdom, Pakistan, India, Ghana, Nigeria, South Africa, including a five-member U.S. Military Polo team participated in the maiden edition of the Nigeria International Military Polo tournament in Kaduna.

In remarks at the opening ceremony, Ambassador John Campbell said such friendly competitions promote global peace, friendship and understanding. Secretary to the Federal Government of Nigeria Chief Ufot Ekaette represented President Obasanjo at the occasion while the Minister of Defence Alhaji Rabiu Kwankwanso, the Chief of Defense Staff General



*Ambassador John Campbell (second left), meets with the five-member U.S. Polo team led by Col. Steve Walsh (center) during the 5th Chukker tournament in Kaduna.*

Alex Ogumodia, and members of the diplomatic community attended the opening ceremony. Governor Makarfi

of Kaduna State was chief host. The tournament was held at the Fifth Chukkers Polo Club, Kaduna. ❖

# USAID Takes the Campaign for Proper Nutrition to the Press

By Eburn Aleshinloye  
USAID/Nigeria

For twenty-two journalists, it was an opportunity to learn how important nutrition is to national development, when they attended a briefing at the Public Affairs Section at the United States Consulate in Lagos last December.

The Public Affairs Officer at the United States Consulate, Ms Atim Eneida George, welcomed the guests and pointed out that these briefings have become important channels for providing information to journalists and the public.

The press briefing on this day, entitled 'Nutrition for National Development in Nigeria: A Call for Action' was conducted by Ms. Liane Adams, Senior Child Survival Technical Advisor, United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The agency promotes child survival within its health and education program in 51 local governments in five states of Nigeria. The program serves a target population of approximately 23 million people of whom 4 million are children below age five, and 10 million are women of reproductive age.

Adams led a panel of nutrition specialists from Nigerian academia and the health sector who participated in an interactive session with the guests for more than an hour. The panel of nutrition experts included Professor I.O. Akinyele, Dean, Faculty of Public Health, University of Ibadan; Dr. Mizan Siddiqi, Child Survival Advisor, and Prince W.A.O. Afolabi, Nutrition Advisor, both from Community Participation for Action in the Social Sector, (COMPASS), Abuja, Dr. Francis Aminu, Chief of Party for Micronutrients Initiative and Dr. Davis Omotola, Secretary of



the National Committee on Food and Nutrition (NCFN), domiciled in the National Planning Commission, FGN. Also in attendance and contributing to the discourse was Dr. Abimbola Ajayi from the Lagos State Ministry of Health, Nutrition Division.

Ms Adams took the audience through a PowerPoint presentation where she highlighted, among others, the following issues: the unacceptable rate of child mortality caused by malnutrition and the importance of exclusive breastfeeding for children until they are six months old, with appropriate complementary feeding added thereafter. It was pointed out that vitamin A, iron and iodine deficiencies and insufficient energy and protein are urgent nutritional problems for Nigerians, together with poor infant feeding and caring practices and nutrition-related non-communicable diseases.

Adams also highlighted the link between micronutrient deficiency in children's diets and the incidence of stunting (42% nationwide) and wasting (in the population, in addition to the very real potential of intellectual impairment). Linking this to the nation as a whole, she said that

malnutrition has a negative impact on the productivity, intelligence and hence, survival of a nation.

Statistics on the cost/benefit ratio of adequate nutrition compared to the cost of addressing the problem were brought to the attention of the visiting journalists.

Because malnutrition underlies 60% of all morbidity and mortality in children under five years of age, the relatively small investments to ensure adequate nutrition status in children would result in enormous savings on health care. Presently in Nigeria, one in ten children dies during their first year of life; while one in six children will die before attaining the age of five.

Nutrition, like HIV and AIDS, is a cross-cutting issue and the two issues are inextricably related. People living with HIV and AIDS require special nutritional attention to boost their immune systems and allow them to better counter the adverse effects of the virus.

Adams concluded the presentation by calling for a sustained investment in nutrition over the next ten years. She posited that 2 million lives, aged 15 to 60, could be saved from premature death, disability and from non-communicable diseases if this is accomplished. From an economic point of view, she stated that for every \$1 spent on nutrition today, Nigeria will receive a return on investment of at least \$9 in ten years time. ❖

■ <http://www.usaid.gov/ng> ■

# Fixed Presidential Term Promotes Democracy, Says Cohen

By Jim Fisher-Thompson  
Washington File Staff Writer

**L**imiting the time a leader may serve in office — called term limits — is a good idea, not only for Africa, but for all democracies because it ensures a fresh approach to problems as well as an antidote to corruption, says former Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Herman Cohen.

“Even our own country, the United States, set a limit of two terms, or eight years, for the presidency after FDR (Franklin D. Roosevelt) won his fourth presidential election in 1944,” Cohen told Washington File in a December 19 interview.

Despite FDR being a great war-time leader, many people who had known no other president in their adult lives thought 16 years was too much for one political leader to serve in a democracy, Cohen said, adding, “They were probably right.”

In emerging regions like Africa, term limits are especially important, the diplomat explained, because “they help consolidate democracy. It has become a symbol of a successful political transition — the way to show that you can peacefully move from one democratic administration to another.”

Presidential limits also are critical because they “guarantee change” in policy and the people who surround the leader, Cohen said. Not only are new ideas and reforms brought in by a new administration but a political turnover also makes it more difficult for corruption to become entrenched because officeholders will leave when a new leader is elected.

Noting that countries like Tanzania, Ghana and Benin have shown the way with regular



Former U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Herman Cohen

presidential transitions, Cohen said, “It would be a shame if Nigeria and Uganda [where there are movements under way to extend legally presidential terms for incumbents] did not do the same.”

Cohen has been an observer of political transformations in Africa for more than four decades. He capped a 38-year career in the Foreign Service as assistant secretary of state for Africa from 1989-1993. During that time he presided over negotiations that ended conflict in Ethiopia, resulting in the independence of Eritrea. He also headed the U.S. team that supported negotiations leading to an end to Mozambique’s civil war in 1992, among other Africa-related diplomatic assignments.

His remarks on term limits underscored similar comments made by Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Jendayi Frazer at a briefing, December 5 in Washington.

Asked about rumors that Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo wanted to run for a third term, necessitating a change to the constitution, Frazer said, “He hasn’t said that he’s running for a third term. But our view is very clear that term limits should be respected.”

Frazer added, “It’s extremely

important in Africa to respect term limits because it allows for the grooming of new leadership, and it supports the rule of law.” In contrast, “societies... countries that have had... 20- to 30-year presidents... haven’t developed.

“Having a regular turnover of power actually ingrains, it institutionalizes, a democratic process,” the official emphasized. “And so it’s extremely important for us, for the United States ... to push African heads of state to respect their term limits. And we certainly would have that message for President Obasanjo should he indicate an interest in running for a third term.”

Commenting on reports that President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda also is interested in extending his presidency after 19 years in power, Frazer said, “We’ve stated it very clearly ... we have a lot of concerns about the road that Uganda is on.”

She said, “We spoke out...very clearly about President Museveni’s bid for a third term. We didn’t like it” despite the fact that the Ugandan president is going about it constitutionally.

Cohen also agreed that moves to alter constitutions to allow incumbents [sitting presidents] to extend their terms in office were counterproductive.

“First of all, it’s very undemocratic to change the constitution to benefit the person in power,” he explained. “If people want to get rid of the two-term limit, they should do it for the next president. The same goes for changing presidents’ salaries. Not that long ago our president’s salary was increased by Congress but the law went into effect for the next man in office, not the sitting president.”❖

# Fulbright Program: Changing Lives, Intergrating Communities

*Musa Abubakar, an English graduate from Bauchi State participated in the Foreign Language Teaching Assistant Program under the U.S. State Department. In this piece, he recounts his experience at the University of Memphis.*

*By Musa Abubakar*

“**A**s you make your bed so you lie on it.” This popular adage, I must say makes more sense to me here in America than it did back home in Nigeria.

Among the many experiences I’ve had since my arrival here (in the US), what has shed a sparkling bright light on the wisdom above is the system and operation of law: you uphold the law...you’ll be trouble-free and will certainly enjoy substantial security; break it, and the law won’t be too friendly.

Memphis Tennessee is where I am assigned to teach college students Hausa and promote its culture. Among many Americans, Memphis is considered a rather small city...an opinion I am still trying to find an adjective that doesn't quite fit. Coming from Africa, any place that could equal Abuja FCT or even better, can't be termed a small city, especially when residents are still ignorant of power failure, a point of view, I am quit certain you wont hesitate to share with me.

The University of Memphis, popularly known among its students as “the U of M” is where I look so unique and am actually more proud of coming from northern-Nigeria than I’ve ever been. This is not only as a result of the traditional Hausa attires that I always have on; the jamfa today and babanriga tomorrow, but also because of the reactions and the respectful nods I get whenever I walk down the streets. I always had to deal



*Fulbright grantee Musa Abubakar (third right), poses with colleagues at the Fulbright Language Teaching Workshop in Baltimore, U.S.A.*

with complements and sometimes even had to be stopped for a picture with some curious Americans, more than some models do in a fashion show. My accent too is not left out in the exhibition, funny that it may seem, but true.

“African time” is really and truly an African concept, for it has no place here in America—at least as far as my three months here go. You just have no excuse not to be punctual. Everything is organized to perfection. Corruption doesn’t seem to be breathing around here, for there is virtually no oxygen for it.

My discovery of educational facilities in the U of M, and I am sure all other US higher institutions are like that, having heard similar comments from fellow FLTAs I have met in the workshop recently, completely erases any excuse I might have for any US citizen or even foreigners in the country not to be at least degree holders. What motivation would any one re-

quire, if one could get financial aid, a student loan and a scholarship at one’s disposal?

As an instructor and a cultural ambassador here in the University of Memphis, I am working with the best supervisors I could ever hope for: Dr Bond, Director of the African and African-American studies also a recipient of the 2005 African students’ award; Dr. Dennis Laumann, a professor in the History Department and the Director of Study Abroad. Rebecca Laumann has, among other nice Americans, been extremely helpful and accommodating. I am teaching two Hausa classes; 1010 and 2010 in the Fall semester and will also looking to teach the advanced classes in Spring; 2010 and 2020. I could never wish for better classes than the ones I have. The students take their studies seriously and have tremendous respect for their instructors. I have no complaints or problems whatsoever. ❖

## ART EXHIBITION: *Two American Icons and Six Young Nigerian Contemporary Artists*

The U.S. Embassy and Transcorp Hilton Hotel Abuja in conjunction with the National Gallery of Arts Abuja sponsored the works of two American Icons Jacob Lawrence and Lois Mailou Jones and six young Nigerian contemporary artist from January 16 - 23, 2006. Below are photos taken by *Idika U. Onyukwu* and *Sani Mohammed*.



*Culture and Tourism Minister Frank Ogbuewu opens the Exhibition with U.S. Cultural Affairs Officer Shirley Lisenby.*



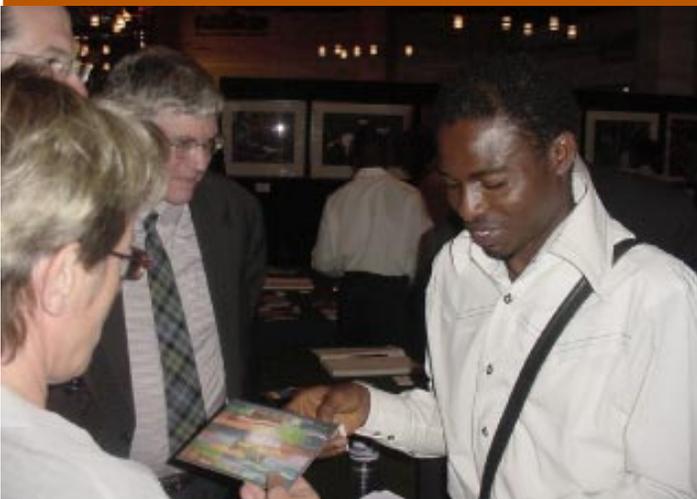
*Society of Nigerian Artists President Kolade Oshinowo makes his remarks at the opening of the Arts Exhibition.*



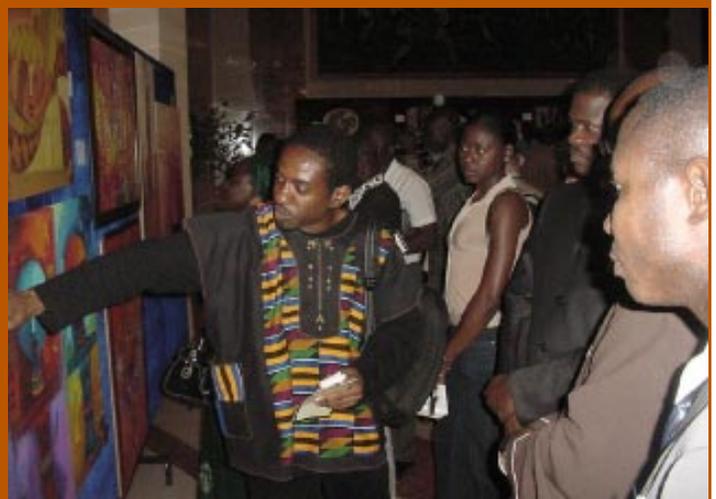
*Some of the paintings on display at the Arts Exhibition*



*Some of the paintings on display at the Arts Exhibition*



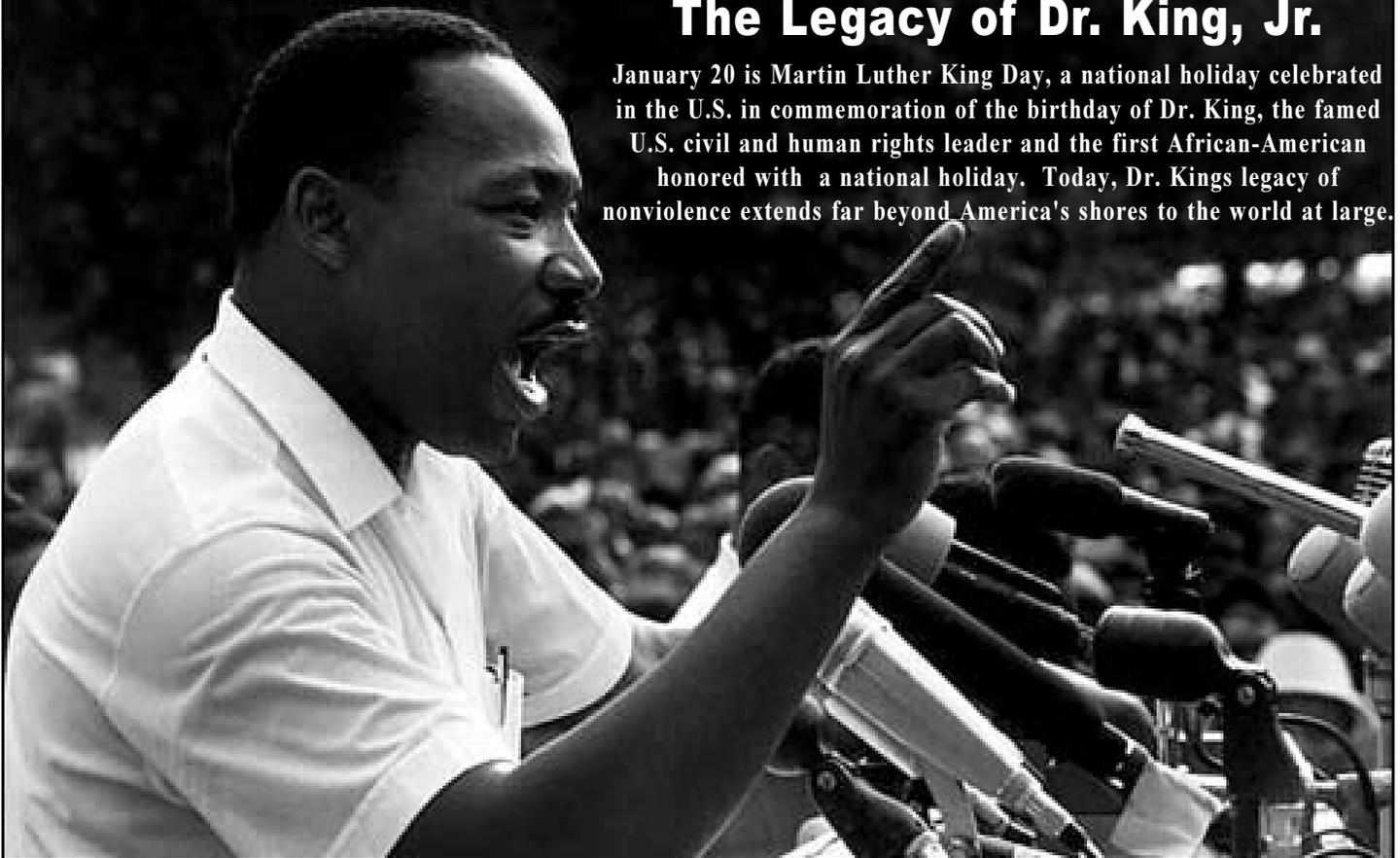
*Nigerian artist Nduwhite Ndubuisi explains the concept of his painting to U.S. Ambassador John Campbell.*



*Chinedu Onuigbo takes his viewers through the concept of his paintings at the Arts Exhibition in Abuja.*

# The Legacy of Dr. King, Jr.

January 20 is Martin Luther King Day, a national holiday celebrated in the U.S. in commemoration of the birthday of Dr. King, the famed U.S. civil and human rights leader and the first African-American honored with a national holiday. Today, Dr. King's legacy of nonviolence extends far beyond America's shores to the world at large.



**February**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
			<b>1</b> <i>U.S. study classes (Lagos and Abuja)</i>	<b>2</b> <i>Internet Resource Training for Journalists</i>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> <i>Media Briefing (Lagos)</i>	<b>8</b> <i>Fim Show on African-American Month</i>	<b>9</b> <i>Media Briefing (Abuja)</i>	<b>10</b> <i>Kaduna Conference on Religion &amp; Terrorism</i>	<b>11</b> <i>International</i>
<b>12</b> <i>Kaduna Conference on Religion &amp; Terrorism</i>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> <i>Fourth Fulbright Conference Kano</i>	<b>15</b> <i>Fim Show on African-American Month</i>	<b>16</b> <i>Fourth Fulbright Conference Kano</i>	<b>17</b> <i>Fourth Fulbright Conference Kano</i>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> <i>President's Day</i>	<b>21</b> <i>Media Briefing (Lagos)</i>	<b>22</b> <i>Fim Show on African-American Month</i>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> <i>Media Briefing (Lagos)</i>				

**2006**

Please note that ALL events on this calendar are STRICTLY by invitation. For enquiries please call the telephone numbers listed above.