



# NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Release No.: 070907-1

Date: July 9, 2007

Pages: Two

## PRESIDENT BUSH MEETS WITH GRANTEE REPRESENTATIVES

**ARLINGTON, Va.** – President George W. Bush and Mrs. Bush are meeting with representatives of some 150 nongovernmental organizations and businesses from throughout the hemisphere and of 70 U.S.-based groups at the Conference on the Americas at the Crystal City Hyatt in Virginia today, July 9. Among them are eight individuals representing IAF grantees.

Participants in the conference, whose theme is advancing social justice in the Americas, will discuss education, healthcare, economic opportunity and building public-private partnerships. “I am very pleased that IAF grantees will be honored by meeting the President of the United States,” said Amb. Larry Palmer, IAF president. “It will be a good opportunity for others to learn about the great work our grantees accomplish every day.”

IAF grantee representatives at the conference include Romero Rodríguez, executive director of Organizaciones Mundo Afro in Uruguay; Celeo Álvarez Casildo, president of Organización de Desarrollo Étnico Comunitario in Honduras; Giovanni Harvey, legal coordinator of Instituto Palmares de Direitos Humanos in Brazil; Dorotea Wilson, general coordinator of Red de Mujeres Afro-descendientes de

**América Latina, el Caribe y la Diáspora in Nicaragua; Inola Mapp, executive director of Centro de Estudio Para la Promoción del Desarrollo in Panama; Jose Chala, executive director of Centro de Investigaciones Familia Negra in Ecuador; Dayana Martínez Burke of Honduras, vice president for development and minorities, Disabled Peoples' International, Latin American region; and Moira Rubio, executive coordinator of Fundación ph15 in Argentina.**

**First lady Laura Bush will address the conference participants as the keynote speaker. Also participating in the conference will be Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs Karen Hughes, Under Secretary of State for Management Henrietta H. Fore and Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs Thomas Shannon. “Economists estimate that for every dollar of official development assistance, there is about \$4 of unofficial or private development assistance coming from churches, universities, and private sector groups,” Shannon commented. “And this profound wellspring of support for the cause of social justice in the region is what we want to point out.”**

**Since its creation in 1969, the IAF has awarded more than 4,600 grants, totaling more than \$600 million, directly to grassroots groups in Latin America and Caribbean and the organizations that support them. For more information about the IAF, visit [www.iaf.gov](http://www.iaf.gov).**

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