

COMFREL, consisting of 130 ngos, mainly small organizations in the provinces. Its election objectives are very similar to those of COMFREL. The main difference between the two appears to be in COFFEL's lower state of preparation. In December, COFFEL was waiting for the election date (since chosen) and some funding certainty before establishing a real structure, and that it was still putting together a master plan for monitoring and voter education. COFFEL intends to have its members agree on a set of civic education messages, then allow them to present messages with some individual variation.

LICADHO had begun to cooperate with COMFREL, but decided last July to act on its own. Its capacity to do so was demonstrated in 1993 when it also operated its own monitoring/civic education program. LICADHO is generally seen by donors to be capable of this task because of its existing provincial network (it has offices in 12 of the larger provinces, and 5 more are to open at the district level in 3 additional provinces), its experience in investigation of human rights cases, and its extensive, ongoing training program (one Phnom Penh team and 18 trainers in 12 provinces conduct sessions twice a month in human rights). Since July, it has been working closely with UNCHR. The theme of its civic education program will simply be that everyone should vote.

Several other of the main human rights ngos, which intend to work under COFFEL or COMFREL, already undertake civic education and plan to adapt it for elections:

- Human Rights Vigilance of Cambodia (**VIGILANCE**) began a program of civic education sessions for community leaders and other human rights activists not involved in political parties. In 1996, 83 sessions were held for over 2000 people in the 11 provinces in which it is active. VIGILANCE will operate under the COMFREL umbrella.
- **ADHOC** plans to collaborate with Asia Forum in exchanging information about monitoring techniques with other Asian countries;
- The Khmer Institute of Democracy (**KID**) organizes half-day to week-long seminars for RCAF officers, teachers, police, civil servants and ngos on the criteria for free and fair elections and the role of COFFEL;
- The Centre for Social Development (**CSD**) has an electoral development process project under which comparative studies of relevant legislation have been carried out, Cambodian legislation scrutinized, and a model code of conduct for election monitors, parties and candidates prepared;
- The Cambodian Institute of Human Rights (**CIHR**), headed by Kassie Neou (who has been nominated for the Vice-Chair of the NEC), intends to apply its well-developed radio and TV programming to getting out the message about elections as a component of the culture of peace;