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THE BUREAU FOR INTERNATIONAL REPORTING'S DECEMBER "POSTCARD"

Dear Friends and Supporters of the BIR,

We'd like to take this holiday season as an opportunity to thank all of you for your support through what has been an exciting year for the BIR – one that saw an expansion of our productions and outreach as well as our reputation as one of the central players in the growing field of non-profit journalism.

We also want to update you on our recent and upcoming productions, as there's lots going on!

THE "FRAGILE STATES SERIES":

The BIR is just wrapping up the last story in its "Fragile States" reporting series for PBS NewsHour. The series, produced with support from the Carnegie Corporation as well as through donations from individuals like you, examines the current stability of four countries on four continents that have been the recipient of large nation-building efforts – with varying degrees of success.

The series kicked off over the summer with a look at the UN peacekeeping efforts in Eastern Congo, broadcast during Secretary of State Clinton's visit to the country and providing Americans with the contextual reporting crucial to their understanding of the actions of our policy makers.

In August, the BIR was in East Timor as this fledgling nation celebrated the 10th anniversary of its independence from Indonesia. The vast efforts to build the country, almost literally from the ground up, have provided valuable lessons for international intervention, and the country is now grappling with the challenge of managing its natural resources wealth.

In September, the BIR headed to Bosnia to examine how 14 years of peace and reconstruction have advanced the country in many ways but have failed to dispel the underlying fragility created by the ethnic composition of the country. Bosnia is



currently facing its biggest crisis since the end of its brutal war, and some observers fear a return to conflict.

Finally, the BIR traveled to Haiti to examine this perpetually struggling country's current moment of hope. A confluence of political stability and security are allowing the tentative return of investors, especially those looking to expand Haiti's once thriving but now mostly mothballed garment industry. Whether Haiti can take advantage of this promising trend and finally pull itself out of failure is an open question.

The Haiti story is in final production and will air in coming days. It and the rest of the stories in the series can be found on NewsHour's recently improved website:

<http://www.pbs.org/newshour/>

And longer "director's cuts" of the stories are on a web portal hosted by our partner, the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting:

<http://pulitzergateway.org/fragile-states/>

As always, links and more information on the BIR and its mission can be found on our own website:

<http://www.thebir.org/>

UPCOMING PROGRAMMING:

The BIR will begin its next project in early January: a look at the persistent problem of maternal mortality, to be reported by Maria Hinojosa for the weekly public affairs newsmagazine NOW on PBS. The BIR will travel to one of the poorest countries in the world (locations still under consideration) to examine how relatively simple changes in policy and practice can potentially save millions of lives. Look for the program to air in late February – a broadcast alert will be sent closer to the date.

The BIR is also pleased to announce a new, substantial grant from the Compton Foundation, to expand our in-depth coverage of global security issues. Production will start in the spring.

SUPPORT OUR WORK:

The BIR is growing: we have increased production plans for the coming year and are looking forward to expanding our dissemination platform into educational and policy-making venues.

But we need your help to ensure the BIR's early promise sustains not only through 2010, but beyond. If you find you have something left to give at the end of this year, please think of us. You can visit our website for ways to donate, including a new, monthly installment plan. Truly, no amount is too small and all contributions are tax deductible.

http://www.thebir.org/donate_to_the_bir

You can join our "fan base" and get our updates from the field by following us on Facebook and Twitter (links on our website). And please help spread the word to your friends and colleagues. We're excited about our future and are grateful to

know that you are too!

Many thanks and best wishes for 2010,

Kira Kay and Jason Maloney

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