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Subject: **BIR Newsletter/NewsHour Airing**
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THE BUREAU FOR INTERNATIONAL REPORTING'S AUGUST "POSTCARD"

Dear Friends and Supporters of the BIR,

We hope you are enjoying your summer. The BIR has had a busy one already and so we thought it would be a good time for an update on our recent activities and upcoming production plans for the fall.

CURRENT PROGRAMMING:

First, a notice that the third version of our "UN peacekeeping in the Democratic Republic of the Congo" reporting is *scheduled* to air **tonight, Tuesday August 11th, on the PBS NewsHour with Jim Lehrer**. The story, which is "pegged" to Secretary Clinton's visit to the DRC, spends a day in the field with UN mission chief Alan Doss and was filmed just as a controversial new advance against local rebels was getting underway.

Besides the *NewsHour* airing, our Congo reporting cycle was seen as half-hour broadcasts on *NOW on PBS* and HDNet's *World Report*, and on various Internet sites, including being selected as a "featured" news video by YouTube. All in all, our work yielded a total of over 70 minutes of television coverage of this important topic and keeps the material permanently in the public domain on the web. Yet another example of the BIR's success at maximizing its production and breadth of reach while keeping costs down. This reporting cycle was funded by the Ford Foundation and our growing community of individual supporters like you – many thanks.

NEW PROGRAMMING PLANS:

Now, the BIR kicks off its new reporting cycle on "Fragile States" around the

world. Scheduled to air as a three-part series on *NewsHour*, the BIR will travel to Asia, Europe and the Americas to examine countries on the cusp of success but at risk of failure. First up, East Timor: what does it take to create one of the world's newest nations from scratch? A fascinating and instructive look at nation-building and the potential pitfalls of international intervention.

This project is a partnership with the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting and is supported through the Carnegie Corporation and the Stanley Foundation.

In early 2010, the BIR will bring a compelling and human look at the global maternal health crisis. Countries are still being selected for filming.

If you'd like to add your support to these BIR reporting cycles, or to generally sustain our work, please visit our website at www.thebir.org - all donations are tax deductible and greatly needed and appreciated (no amount is too small and we've even set up a monthly installment plan through Network for Good).

PARTNERS:

The BIR is pleased to add new dissemination partners to its network, in particular on the Internet. The Foreign Policy Association and the Council on Foreign Relations have agreed to either stream or link to our work and Reporters without Borders is also featuring our reports. Other collaborations are in the works, so look for more new partners in the fall.

OUTREACH:

The BIR is being asked to speak at universities and conferences both domestically and internationally – recognition that our name and work is gaining in reputation. In June, Executive Director Kira Kay spoke about the media's role in conflict at Rotary International's global symposium in the U.K. and will also present the Rackham Distinguished Human Rights Lecture at the University of Michigan in November. Earlier this year, the BIR presented its work to journalism students at the Salt Institute in Portland, ME. Through the new Fragile States project, the BIR will be presenting in at least five universities all across the U.S.

SUPPORT OUR WORK:

We are growing: more broadcasters are coming to us to request our work and more institutions are turning to us to provide expertise on media and international topics. But we can't do it without help. Please visit our website for ways to give financially, or join our "fan base" by subscribing to future newsletters or following us on Facebook and Twitter. All these efforts demonstrate to our funders that our work is appreciated and needed. And please help spread the word to your friends and colleagues.

Many thanks and best wishes,



Kira Kay and Jason Maloney

www.thebir.org

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