

### The past year has seen some encouraging activity by the British chapter of the ICF

The UK chapter of ICF has been involved in two public conferences. The first was *War Reporting - Where does a journalists' duty lie?* - where the first-hand experience of journalists including Martin Bell, Phillip Knightley and Yvonne Ridley made for an absorbing debate.



*Magnus Linklater,  
Chair, ICF UK  
Chapter with  
Yvonne Ridley at  
the conference on  
War Reporting*

The second conference, *Lifting the Carpet – an African Conversation with special reference to Kenya, Zimbabwe and Angola* was inspired by Rafael Marques, ICF Vice-President, human rights activist and journalist from Angola. His in-depth writing on the Angolan mining industry has been a challenge to the government and in the past has been the cause of arrest without charge. He has been given the Percy Qoboza Award for outstanding courage.

The day's deliberations were neatly summarised by Bill Porter, 'We have been looking under the carpet today and while seeing what others have brushed under it, we may also have seen things that we should deal with. Let us go out and deal with what we see.'

The ICF will be running a workshop on media ethics at Lincoln University in March, following the successful event held there last year

### Progress continues outside the United Kingdom

ICF President Bernard Margueritte has delivered a series of speeches through the year probably the most important being in Rome to the European University, where he spoke for 40 minutes on *'the Teaching of John Paul II and the mission of the Media.'* Bernard also received word from William Smook, journalist in South Africa, calling for a new ICF chapter and a conference there. 'With an election next year, the time is right to examine the issues that the ICF addresses in a local and Pan African context.' Bernard will be representing the ICF at the World Association of Newspapers Congress in Hyderabad, India in March.

We were encouraged by the training programme given for 25 journalists in March 2008 in the Ivory Coast on the theme of *Media synergy for fair and hate free elections*, organised by an ICF supporter and a Swiss press agency.

Earlier last year, Bill Porter underwent a miraculous operation on an aneurism of the aorta. In view of his age the chances of success were less than one in ten. The fact that a highly experienced vascular surgeon in France happened to be visiting the Boulogne Hospital at the precise moment when Bill was there is co-incidental in the extreme. In September, Bill had recovered sufficiently to fulfil an invitation to attend the annual banquet, in Canada, of the Human Concern International, a Muslim-sponsored aid agency. Imam Slimi, Chair of the Imams of Canada, who heads a TV programme, interviewed Bob Webb and Bill for some 12 minutes each, for a December programme.

You can find more details of these activities on our website at [www.icforum.org](http://www.icforum.org)

### Our team in Greencoat Place, London

Our team in London manages the activities of the British chapter and also administers many of the ICF's worldwide activities. This involves running our web site, managing our contact database, sending out information about events both in the UK and elsewhere, including invitations to Caux each year, and managing the expenses of our President in his ICF work.

***The effort of the ICF to be a catalyst for deeper commitment goes on. It doesn't proceed without some degree of sacrifice and tangible resource. We send heartfelt thanks to all those who have helped the work forward. Any wishing to contribute now will be deeply appreciated.***

***Cheques in £UK or euros payable to ICF Limited should be sent to the address below.***

***Checks in £US payable to ICF-America Inc (tax deductible for US taxpayers) should be sent to Mr Robert Webb, 5850 Cameron Run, Apt 1511, Alexandria, VA 22303, USA.***