



Date: July 11, 2012

To: Secretary General Kofi Annan  
Vice President Walter Mondale

From: Lane Ayres, Director  
The Jack Mason Law & Democracy Initiative of Books For Africa

This fourth brief report to you since Books For Africa (BFA) launched The Jack Mason Law & Democracy Initiative in September of 2008 details the significant steps made to further the rule of law across Africa in the last 12 months.

#### **Accomplishments during the 2011-2012 fiscal year ending June 30**

- West law libraries or modules of that library were sent to 14 law schools and women's or human rights organizations in Angola, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal and The Gambia. Each prepackaged law library consists of over 300 new, latest edition law books on specifically requested subjects. They are donated by the publisher, Thomson Reuters.
- These 14 law libraries were included in BFA container shipments of other school and library books. BFA shipped over 1.6 million school and library books to 19 African countries this past fiscal year.
- Law books to The Gambia went to the law school, the Female Lawyer's Association and the African Human Rights Commission, which is headquartered in Banjul. The Bibliotheca Alexandrina in Egypt received a law library for their legal section. The library for the University of Ghana Legon Law Faculty was included in one of five containers, over 100,000 school books, which were sponsored by Cargill.
- We sent law libraries to 3 non English-speaking countries, Angola, Mali and Somalia. They requested these legal resource libraries because of their business and trade relations with English-speaking African countries. The Puntland Somalia container was sponsored by the National Endowment for Democracy.

- We welcome 6 new Advisory Board members:  
Fatou Bensouda, Chief Prosecutor, International Criminal Court in The Hague  
Neneh Chem, President, Female Lawyer's Association of The Gambia  
Yvonne Fiadjoe, Senior Counsel, African Development Bank, Tunis  
Sam Hanson, former Minnesota Supreme Court Justice  
Olufunmi Oluyede, Co-chair American Bar Association International Human Rights Committee, Lagos  
Georgina Wood, Chief Justice, Ghana Supreme Court

### **Expectations for this new fiscal year**

- Thomson Reuters is making changes in their corporate structure and we are revising the list of books comprising the Core Law Library. We will have a new library composition ready by September.
- Several BFA containers will be going to Nigeria sponsored by the Sir Emeka Offor Foundation in Abuja and law libraries will be included in some of them.
- In 2013 BFA will be celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our law book program. We will invite your participation in our celebrations.
- There are outstanding requests for law books from law schools and legal organizations in several countries which we hope to find funding to fulfill.

Major financial support for the Jack Mason Law and Democracy Initiative comes from Thomson Reuters and from the Robins, Kaplan, Miller & Ciresi law firm, with significant support from several other law firms, and from judges, lawyers and other individuals.

Your co-leadership of our Advisory Board continues to be of seminal value as we work to further the rule of law across Africa. And, your leadership honors our friend Jack Mason, who as a board member first suggested that BFA include law books in our shipments. Thank you!

Cc: Vivian Mason  
Advisory Board  
Key supporters