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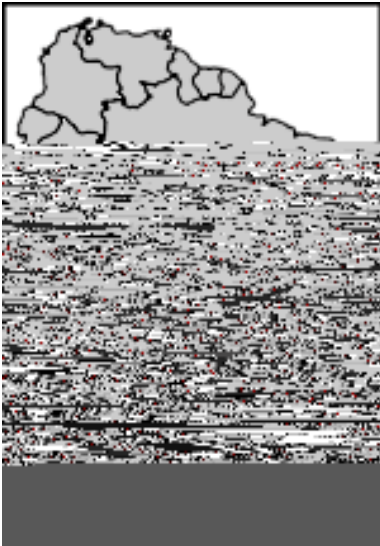
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## IRI in Bolivia

[Latin America and the Caribbean](#)



**President:** Carlos Diego Mesa Gisbert (since October 17, 2003)

**Recent Elections:** Presidential- June 30, 2002

**Upcoming Elections:** Municipal- December 2003

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A 2002 democracy study conducted by University of Pittsburgh Professor Mitchell Seligson reveals an overwhelming call for dialogue. When asked whether they were more in agreement with a leader who ruled with a strong hand or with a leader who knew how to communicate with all sectors of the population, a resounding 70.5% percent of those polled agreed that they believed dialogue was key to good governance. Unfortunately, the same research shows that three quarters of the population was not aware of any way to communicate with their elected leaders. In these circumstances, communication with political parties is also compromised.

The IRI-Bolivia program aims to help bridge the communication gap between civil society, elected officials, and political parties.

- High School Civics Initiative

Bolivia's educators are preparing to revise the curriculum through the high school level, with special emphasis to be given to promotion of democratic knowledge, skills, and virtues.

IRI will bolster this reform effort by developing materials that teachers and students can use as they explore the history of democracy, the role of the responsible citizen and elected officials, and specific themes such as authority and responsibility.

By preparing citizens to acquire the knowledge, skills, and virtues of an informed and active public, and additionally provide the venues in which to exercise them, IRI hopes to help Bolivians become stockholders in their own democracy.

## *publications*

## *program highlights*

- **11/8/2004** [Civic-education manual developed for Bolivian students](#)
- **9/16/2004** [International Conference on Education Reforms](#)
- **7/19/2004** [Referendum education program](#)
- **3/31/2004** [Politics and Politicians in Bolivia](#)

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