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## MEDIA ADVISORY

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### **Tsunami Two Years Later: International Development Organization Presents its Work in Indonesia**

**OTTAWA – February 15, 2007** – On February 25<sup>th</sup>, USC Canada staff will be on hand at the Unitarian Fellowship in Kingston to speak about the work being done in Aceh, Indonesia to help rebuild the social infrastructure there following the 2004 Tsunami.

USC Program Officer Celia Borgatti, will give a talk entitled *Indonesia: Building Back After Disaster*. Borgatti was in Aceh in mid-2006, and will speak about the challenges and successes, and the long path ahead for the people there.

In December 2004, a major earthquake shook northern Sumatra causing a tsunami that devastated communities all along the coastline of Aceh Province in Indonesia. The human toll was massive, and we all retain strong images of destroyed homes and businesses.

The tsunami had a major impact on social services and local governance. Two years later, with reconstruction work on the physical infrastructure well underway, communities can now shift their focus. USC is working with the Civil Society Alliance for Democracy (an Indonesian organization known as YAPPIKA) to help the people of Aceh build a stable local governance system and ensure their voices are heard.

**WHEN:** Sunday, February 25th at 10:30 AM  
**WHERE:** Kingston Unitarian Fellowship, 214 Concession St, Kingston, ON  
613-544-8777

The Tsunami wreaked havoc on Acehnese civil society but it did not destroy the spirit or skills of those determined to revive it. Borgatti will discuss how USC hopes to provide opportunity for the Acehnese to participate in their own governance and society building.

Founded in 1945 as the Unitarian Service Committee of Canada, USC is a voluntary organization working to promote strong, healthy, and just communities in developing countries.

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For further information, please contact Jackie Boisvenue at USC Canada, 613-234-6841 ext. 248.