Cog Awards for opposing Biopiracy 2002

Presented by the Coalition against Biopiracy

Best Peoples' Defense
Winner
COMPLITCH and Indigenous peoples' organizations in Chiapas, Mexico.

For successfully defeating the US government's $2.5 million bioprospecting project in Chiapas.

Runner-Up
Human rights organizations and churches in the South Pacific nation of Tonga.

For opposing the efforts of an Australian biotech company, Autogen, to gain exclusive access to the genetic information of the Tongan people.

Best Legal Defense
Winner
International Center for Tropical Agriculture

For legally challenging a US patent on Mexico's yellow bean and for upholding the FAO/CGIAR Trust Agreement on behalf of the world's farmers.

Best Whistleblower
Winner
Gwendolyn Zahner

For filing an official complaint that forced Harvard University to suspend improper genetic research involving collection of DNA from poor people in rural China.

Best National Defense
Winner
Indian Government and Indian People

For challenging the Basmati patent at the US Patent and Trademark Office. As a result of popular protests worldwide and legal action by the Indian government, the US PTO struck down 15 of the 20 claims in RiceTec's monopoly patent.

Best [we can get] International Treaty
Winner
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

For approving an International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, a legally-binding, multilateral agreement to govern access to and exchange of vital crop germplasm. The Treaty must be strengthened because of ambiguities on Farmers' Rights and intellectual property.

*Cog's were ships designed to repel pirate attacks

For more information: www.ctcgroup.org