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For Immediate Release

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International Task Force on Strategic Drug Policy Provides Commentary on Colorado's Legalized Pot Experiment

(St. Petersburg, FL) A commentary recently published in the *Journal of Global Drug Policy and Practice* (www.globaldrugpolicy.org) entitled, *Colorado Consequences*, provides a global perspective of various experts from over 35 countries on Colorado's recent experiment to legalize marijuana. Community leaders and other professionals from around the world question, not only the conflict regarding state and federal drug laws in the U.S., but also the violation of treaties of the United Nations.

"The world should take note of the issues raised in this statement from the International Task Force on Strategic Drug Policy because there is no doubt that legalizing and normalizing marijuana in Colorado will be a public health disaster," said Calvin Fay, Executive Director of Drug Free America Foundation, a non-governmental organization (NGO) in special consultative status with the United Nations. "Increases in drugged driving, domestic violence and marijuana use by youth and an infestation of drug tourism is sure to follow this ill-fated experiment," continued Fay. "The passage of this state initiative is a blow to drug control and it is certainly worthwhile to note that keeping marijuana illegal is a U.S. treaty obligation under the 1961 International Convention on Narcotic Drugs which is supported by two other conventions -- the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Drugs and the 1988 Anti-Trafficking Convention. The U.S. was a prime mover of these multilateral treaties and largely responsible for their approval and ratification by virtually every country in the world. Now our government completely ignores our treaty obligations," Fay concluded.

The President of the United Nations' International Narcotics Control Board, Raymond Yans, has been keeping close tabs on the issue. His office has released several statements voicing the board's concerns on this issue. When legalization was passed in Colorado and Washington State in November of 2012, Yans said, "Legalization of cannabis within these states would send wrong and confusing signals to youth and society in general, giving the false impression that drug abuse might be considered normal and even, most disturbingly, safe. Such a development could result in the expansion of drug abuse, especially among young people, and we must remember that all young people have a right to be protected from drug abuse and drug dependency." Then, again in March of 2013, Yans stressed in statements released by his office that the U.S. was in violation of UN treaty agreements.

Ian Oliver, a member of the International Task Force on Strategic Drug Policy from the United Kingdom said, "The failure of the U.S. Government to prevent this dangerous move by the State of Colorado and any others that follow this shocking and irresponsible example will cause a great deal of harm globally that could and should have been avoided."

If you would like to set up an interview about this issue taskforce members, contact Lana Beck at **(727) 828-0211, ext. 102** or **(727) 403-7571**.

The *International Task Force on Strategic Drug Policy* is a network of professionals and community leaders from over 35 countries who support and promote drug demand reduction principles, develop community coalitions and strive to advance communication and cooperation among non-governmental organizations who are working to stem illicit drugs and promote sound drug policy around the world.
<http://www.itfsdp.org/>

Drug Free America Foundation, Inc. is a national and international drug policy organization promoting effective sound drug policies, education and prevention. www.dfaf.org.

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