

## 2005 Democracy Award

On Wednesday, July 13, 2005 the National Endowment for Democracy honored three democratic activists from Afghanistan with the Endowment's annual Democracy Award. The event, which included a roundtable discussion addressing the recent challenges to Afghanistan's continued democratic progress, highlighted the diligent and courageous work of the three honorees to educate citizens and local leaders about the basic values and principles of democracy, the rights of women and ethnic minorities, strategies for peacebuilding and conflict resolution, and the importance of broad political participation.

The three honorees, all of whom are NED grantees, lead organizations of civil society dedicated to the education and empowerment of all Afghans, including women and youth. Sakena Yacoobi founded one of the largest women-led, non-governmental organizations in Afghanistan, the Afghan Institute of Learning (AIL), and she is a pioneer in the movement to increase girls' and women's access to education and improve education overall. Mohammad Nasib heads the Welfare Association for Development of Afghanistan (WADAN), which aims to advance democratic principles and strengthen local governance by training a network of more than 1,000 maliks, traditional local leaders who encourage active participation from the grassroots of Afghan society. Sarwar Hussaini leads the Cooperation Center for Afghanistan (CCA), an established NGO that works to promote



On July 13, NED honored three democratic activists from Afghanistan with its annual Democracy Award. Front row: Sakena Yacoobi, Mohammad Nasib, Sarwar Hussaini. Back row: Ambassador Said Tayeb Jawad, Vin Weber, Carl Gershman, Paula Dobriansky, Robert C. Miller.

citizen participation and democratic institutions in Afghanistan through the empowerment of women and the strengthening of democratic practices.

The roundtable discussion, titled "Building Democracy in Afghanistan: The Challenges Ahead," preceded the awards ceremony. Moderated by NED board member Francis Fukuyama, the discussion and presentation included comments by the three honorees in addition to Robert Barry from the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), S. Frederick Starr, chairman of the Central Asia-Caucasus Institute at Johns Hopkins University, and Barbara Haig of NED.

**Sakena Yacoobi** is the founder and Director of the Afghan Institute of Learning (AIL), which provides education and health services to more than 350,000 needy Afghans, especially women and children, acting on the be-

lief that educated and self-reliant people are central to Afghanistan's future.

**Mohammad Nasib** is the Managing Director of the Welfare Association for Development of Afghanistan (WADAN), which seeks to promote democracy and national unity by fostering collaboration among all segments of the population, especially by training and organizing maliks, the traditional local leaders who encourage active participation from the grassroots of Afghan society.

**Sarwar Hussaini** is the Chairman and Director of the Cooperation Center for Afghanistan (CCA), which monitored human rights from within Afghanistan during the Taliban period and today helps Afghans recover from the physical and psychological ravages of war by providing skills-based training to the most needy Afghans, including widows and children.

In his tribute to the honorees, NED

President Carl Gershman remarked, “The decisive contribution to Afghanistan’s rebirth must come from the people themselves, working through organizations of civil society devoted to the education and empowerment of all Afghans. Working with countless other Afghans committed to building a democratic and tolerant society, these three individuals have demonstrated unusual courage, determination, and vision in contributing to the democratic rebirth of Afghanistan.”

### **Francis Fukuyama delivers second annual Lipset Lecture**

On Wednesday, November 2, 2005, The National Endowment for Democracy and the Embassy of Canada held the second annual Seymour Martin Lipset Lecture on Democracy in the World. The lecture, inaugurated in 2004 by NED and the Munk Centre for International Studies of the University of Toronto, serves as a forum for discourse on democracy and its progress worldwide. This year’s lecture was delivered by renowned political scientist and NED board member Francis Fukuyama.

In his lecture, titled “Identity, Immigration and Liberal Democracy,” Fukuyama explored the challenges faced by the liberal democracies of Western Europe, Canada, and the United States in integrating Muslim immigrants. In particular, Fukuyama probed the reasons why the model of multiculturalism, which originated in Canada and has been reasonably successful there, is increasingly regarded as a failure in countries like the Netherlands, Great Britain, and France. The greatest obstacle that Western Europe faces, he contends, is that many



**Frank Fukuyama spoke about Identity, Immigration, and Liberal Democracy at the Embassy of Canada.**

Muslims, particularly those who are second- and third- generation, have been unable to achieve a clear sense of identity, resulting in a disenfranchised group of people who have failed to assimilate into the mainstream culture.

In an attempt to stem an inevitable tidal wave of events associated with a marginalized faction, Fukuyama suggests taking multiculturalism more seriously, and not simply allowing immigrants to create isolated enclaves with separate cultural norms. Immigrants should be able to look forward to attaining not only jobs but also status within their newfound homeland, so that one day Muslims can feel as French or as Dutch or as Spanish as they are by law. Laws should be amended so that citizenship is open to immigrants at an earlier stage, as the Germans did in 2000. Traditions that are integral to the established national identity should not be exclusionary of groups whose ancestors were not a part of their

creation. Finally, the perspective that it is impossible to create a melting pot along the lines of that which has been adopted in the United States is of deep concern, contends Fukuyama. For if Europeans continue to regard their national identity as a blood and soil creation that inhibits the integration of new ethnic groups, then the prognosis for a harmonious and productive European society is bleak. “If postmodern societies are to move toward a more serious discussion of identity,” said Fukuyama, “they will need to uncover those positive virtues that define what it means to be a member of the larger community. If they do not, they will indeed be overwhelmed by people who are more sure about who they are.”

The lecture, which was held at the Canadian Embassy in Washington, D.C., is named for one of the great public intellectuals and scholars of democracy of the twentieth century. “Marty Lipset’s scholarship on themes like the conditions for democracy, political parties, voting behavior, and public opinion constitutes one of the most prolific and insightful bodies of work on democracy ever produced by a single author,” said NED President Carl Gershman.

### **NED launches New York Democracy Forum and Honors Whitehead and Richardson**

On March 9, 2005, at its first annual Democracy Dinner, the National Endowment for Democracy launched the New York Democracy Forum (NYDF), an exciting joint venture of NED and the Foreign Policy Association (FPA). The Dinner also provided an opportunity to honor two lifelong campaigners for democracy and hu-

man rights, John C. Whitehead and John Richardson, with the Endowment's Democracy Service Medal.

Since the advance of democracy is one of the fundamental struggles of our time, NED and FPA believe it is critical that the world's leading commercial center engages with those who are part of that struggle. Through a lecture series held in New York City, the aim of the NYDF is to bring key figures in the democracy movement, individuals who are leading the way in the advance of democratic values and institutions around the world, to New York audiences. Along with garnering support for the worldwide democracy movement from New York's civic, educational, and financial leaders, the New York Democracy Forum is creating opportunities for engagement with some of the world's current and future leaders. Former House Democratic Leader and NED Board member Richard Gephardt delivered the first lecture in the NYDF series on March 22, speaking on the topic *Spreading Freedom: A Mission for the American People* (see text box for full schedule).

**John C. Whitehead** has led an outstanding career as a financier, diplomat, philanthropist and public servant. In 1985, President Ronald Reagan appointed Whitehead Deputy Secretary of State under George Schultz. During his four-year tenure, he was instrumental in major diplomatic initiatives, including NATO's expansion into Central and Eastern Europe. Upon leaving office, Reagan presented Whitehead with the Presidential Citizen's Medal. He has served as chairman of the boards of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, the Asia Society, and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. As the longtime

## New York Democracy Forum 2005 Lecture Series

- **March 9** – Democracy Dinner
- **March 22** – Richard Gephardt, *Spreading Freedom: A Mission for the American People.*
- **April 20** – Azar Nafisi, *Women, Culture, Human Rights: the case of Iran.*
- **May 24** – Francis Fukuyama, *Do we really know how to promote democracy?*
- **October 6** – Mark Malloch Brown, *UN Reform, Democracy and Human Rights.*
- **November 3** – Larry Diamond, *Can the Whole World Become Democratic?*
- **December 1** – Anwar Ibrahim, *The Future of Muslim Democracy.*



After receiving the Endowment's Democracy Service Medal, John C. Whitehead addresses the audience at the launch of the New York Democracy Forum.

former chairman and president of the International Rescue Committee, he traveled the world for the cause of political refugees and currently serves as the Chairman of the Lower Man-

hattan Development Corporation.

"John's message on human rights was consistent, low-key, but absolutely firm," said NED president Carl Gershman. "Its essence was that human rights are at the core of the American agenda. They're part of what we are as a nation, and that if governments want relations with us, they'll have to take that into account."

Throughout his life, **John Richardson** has been a devoted public servant, dedicated to advancing freedom and international cooperation and understanding. He has served as CEO of Radio Free Europe, Assistant Secretary of State for Educational & Cultural Affairs, and was a founding staff member of the U.S. Institute of Peace, as well as a founding board member and chairman of NED. He has been a board member of many other educational and service organizations and currently sits on the board of the Council for a Community of Democracies, the International Rescue Committee, and the American Forum for Global Education.

Speaking of Richardson's work that helped lead to the establishment of NED, Gershman said, "When in the late



NED President Carl Gershman presents John Richardson with the Democracy Service Medal.

1970s John Richardson first proposed to a group of Washington policy makers a ‘public-private foundation for freedom,’ he could not have known that such an organization would not only be established, but one day grow into a major international institution. What he clearly did know, however, is that if such an entity ever did come into existence, it would project the two values he had already spent most of his own life fighting for: freedom and democracy.”

### President Bush Addresses NED

President George W. Bush gave one of his most important speeches on the global war against terrorism before the National Endowment for Democracy and its four affiliated Institutes on October 6, 2005.

In his address, delivered at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, Bush underscored the importance of staying focused on the persistent ideological struggle against al-Qaeda and other terrorist networks. However, he also stressed that the worldwide appeal of freedom and



President George W. Bush spoke to NED and its four institutes on October 6.

democracy would ultimately prevail against the totalitarian ideology of radical Islam, similar to its defeat of communism during the Cold War.

The world is facing “a radical ideology with unalterable objectives to enslave whole nations and intimidate the world,” President Bush declared. However, he emphasized that the United States’ commitment to promoting democracy will thwart radicalism. “If the people...are permitted to choose their own destiny, and advance by their own energy and by their participation as free men and women, then the extremists will be marginalized, and the flow of violent radicalism to the rest of the world will eventually end. By standing for the hope and freedom of others, we make our own freedom more secure.”

NED Board Members Richard Gephardt and Christopher Cox offered remarks prior to the presidential address. In articulating his perspective on democracy, SEC Chairman Cox



NED Board Member Richard C. Gephardt (pictured above) and Christopher Cox also spoke at the October event.

noted, “Democracy nurtures the virtues that can defeat terrorism. Democracy requires open debate, civility, and an open understanding of your opponent’s point of view — if only to defeat him or her through the voice of reason.”

Concluding the program, NED President Carl Gershman noted that it is our mission and our moral obligation to advance democracy in the face of counter measures aimed at weakening indigenous democratic movements. “Solidarity means standing with people who are taking grave risks in the struggle to build free societies. In so doing, we are contributing to a growing spirit of international solidarity that transcends national boundaries.”

The event was held in cooperation with NED’s four affiliated institutes, the American Center for International Labor Solidarity, the Center for International Private Enterprise, the International Republican Institute, and the National Democratic Institute. It was made possible by the generous support of the Microsoft Corporation.