

2007 Democracy Award

NED Honors Press Freedom Activists from Egypt, Russia, Thailand, and Venezuela with 2007 Democracy Award

On September 18, 2007, the National Endowment for Democracy honored the courageous efforts of journalists, publishers and press freedom advocates when it presented its annual Democracy Award to three individuals and one organization working to preserve press freedom in Egypt, Russia, Venezuela and Southeast Asia, where authoritarian regimes increasingly seek to silence the voice of independent media. The honorees have shown bravery, determination, and passion as they stand up for journalistic integrity in the face of harassment, censorship, violence, and even death.

Hisham Kassem was honored as one of Egypt's most prominent publishers and democracy activists. He was the publisher of *Al-Masry Al-*

Youm (The Egyptian Today), Egypt's first independent daily paper, and is chairman of the Egyptian Organization for Human Rights. Kassem is a staunch advocate of independent journalism and his publications have earned a reputation as sources of hard news, rare for the region's media.

NED also recognized the work of **Instituto Prensa y Sociedad (IPYS) – Venezuela**, a press freedom monitoring group established in 2002 that has since become an authoritative voice on freedom of expression issues in Venezuela. IPYS monitors threats and attacks on journalists and media outlets and assumed a leading role in the campaign to defend the privately-owned RCTV television station after the Chávez

government refused to renew the popular station's broadcast license.

Kavi Chongkittavorn was recognized for his work as a tireless campaigner for press freedom and democratic reform throughout Southeast Asia. He has worked as a journalist for over 20 years and is assistant group editor of Nation Media Group, the publisher of *The Nation*, one of Thailand's leading English-language daily newspapers.

Anna Politkovskaya, the courageous reporter for the Moscow newspaper *Novaya Gazeta* who was murdered at her apartment building on October 7, 2006, was honored posthumously. Throughout her distinguished career as a Russian journalist, Anna was an outspoken advocate for human rights and an end to the devastating war in Chechnya. Politkovskaya's



NED honored four press freedom activists with its 2007 Democracy Award. Pictured from left to right: Representative Gregory Meeks, Hisham Kassem, Representative Adam Schiff, Senator Richard Lugar, Elena Milashina, Kavi Chongkittavorn, Vin Weber, Ewald Scharfenberg, and Carl Gershman.

award was accepted by fellow *Novaya Gazeta* reporter Elena Milashina.

A panel discussion, titled “Defending Free Media in Difficult Environments,” preceded the award ceremony. Moderated by NED Vice President for Governmental & External Relations David Lowe, the discussion included remarks by the four awardees as well as Christopher Walker, Director of Studies at Freedom House, and Marguerite Sullivan, Senior Director of NED’s Center for International Media Assistance. The discussion focused on the importance of a free press to establishing a democratic society and the state of independent media in each of the four awardees’ particular regions. The panelists also spoke about the challenges and opportunities ahead, especially with regards to new media, such as the Internet, which is already playing a significant role in closed societies.

Following the panel discussion, the Democracy Awards were presented by four members of the U.S. Congress, Representatives Tom Lantos (D-CA), Gregory Meeks (D-NY), Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), and Adam Schiff (D-CA). Rep. Lantos, Chairman of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs and co-founder of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus, presented the posthumous award to Anna Politkovskaya calling her “one of the giants of our age” and noting how greatly he was “impressed by her fearless dedication to making Russia a truly open, free, and democratic society.”

Senator Richard Lugar (R-IN), who made remarks at the awards ceremony, also noted the importance of independent media to the building of democracy: “It has been easy in the rhetoric of our times to talk

about simply establishing democracy as if somehow without any roots or preparation or thoughtfulness, a whole change of government and ethos happens. But those who are in the room know this is not the case and that courageous journalists frequently set the pace [of democratic change].”

NED Donates Founding Papers to the Library of Congress

On Thursday, June 7, 2007, NED officially donated its early papers to the Library of Congress and marked the occasion with a panel discussion and reception that included a wide range of speakers, including House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, NED founding Board member and past Chairman William Brock and Deputy National Security Advisor Elliott Abrams. The event also commemorated the 25th anniversary of President Ronald Reagan’s Westminister Address to the British Parliament, in which he called upon the world’s democracies to launch “a global campaign for freedom” and proposed an initiative that led to the founding of the National Endowment for Democracy.

The opening panel discussion, titled *The Legacy of Westminister: Democracy Assistance Since the Founding of NED and the Challenges Ahead*, featured leading thinkers and practitioners in the global democracy movement, including Zainab Hawa Bangura, a prominent civil society leader from Sierra Leone who currently serves as the country’s foreign minister; Thomas Carothers of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace; Larry Diamond, co-editor of the *Journal of Democracy* and se-



House Speaker Nancy Pelosi gives remarks before NED’s signing ceremony at the Library of Congress.

nior fellow at the Hoover Institution at Stanford University; NED Board Member Jean Bethke Elshtain of the University of Chicago; and, finally, Anwar Ibrahim, the former deputy prime minister of Malaysia whose vocal demand for reform resulted in his arrest and six year imprisonment.

Reflecting on the impact of democracy assistance over the past 25 years, Tom Carothers remarked that “probably hundreds of thousands of people around the world have been directly touched by democracy assistance programs in ways that have given them knowledge, understanding, moral support, inspiration, and solidarity.” However, in an age of new threats to democracy and freedom, Larry Diamond argued that “heeding the spirit of Reagan’s Westminister message requires a new resolve and a redoubled effort.” Speaking last, Zainab Bangura put the importance of democracy assistance into extraordinarily concrete terms when she told the group assembled, “The most amazing thing when people always refer to me as the one who led the campaign against the mili-



Panelists, current and former members of NED’s Board of Directors, as well as representatives of NED’s core institutes and the Library of Congress pose for an official picture marking the donation of its founding papers by NED to the Library. L to R: Panelist Anwar Ibrahim, former NED Vice Chairman Tom Donahue, NED board member Judy Shelton, former NED Chairman and US Senator Bill Brock, IRI President Lorne Craner, panelist Zainab Bangura, NED Treasurer Robert Miller, NED Secretary and panelist Jean Bethke Elshain, Solidarity Center Executive Director Ellie Larson, John Earl Haynes of the Library of Congress Manuscript Division, NED President Carl Gershman, NED board member Howard Wolpe, Former Senate Majority Leader and NDI board member Tom Daschle, US Representative and NED board member Gregory Meeks, NDI President Ken Wollack, CIPE Executive Director John Sullivan, US Representative and former NED board member Donald Payne.

tary in Sierra Leone after three decades of one party and military dictatorship, I did it with \$25,000 from the U.S. government,” referring to a grant she received from NED, which is funded by an annual congressional appropriation.

In addition to Pelosi, Hoyer, Brock and Abrams, NED was joined by a bipartisan group of well-wishers that included US Representatives David Dreier (R-CA), Gregory Meeks (D-NY), and Donald Payne (D-NJ), former Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle (D-SD), and US Archivist Allen Weinstein, who led the study group that preceded the founding of the Endowment. John Earl Haynes and James Hutson represented the Library of Congress for the evening, and NED President Carl Gershman accepted the formal agreement for the Endowment’s papers.

Speakers at the reception paid generous tribute to the work of NED

and its grantees worldwide. Speaker Pelosi remarked that “I’ve seen close up NED working in China...and it is very important to us in the Congress... because of its mission, the talents of its leaders, and the impact it has had.” Majority Leader Hoyer reflected, “it’s been an extraordinary period of time in which this organization has been active and, frankly, there is not a period of time in which the work, the focus and the mission of this organization has been more important.”

The NED papers constitute a rich historical record chronicling the bipartisan effort to create the flagship institution of America’s democracy assistance work, with a focus on its early years of supporting grassroots democratic initiatives abroad. The materials comprise thousands of documents, speeches, correspondence and photos from the first decade of

NED’s operations, as well as from the American Political Foundation, whose study “The Democracy Program” led to the establishment of the NED.

The Library of Congress is an agency of the legislative branch and the largest library in the world. The Library houses more than 134 million items, from the papers of noted Americans and prominent organizations, to books in 460 different languages, to films and sound recordings.

Pierre Hassner Delivers Fourth Annual Lipset Lecture

The Fourth Annual Lipset Lecture was delivered on November 15, 2007, by Pierre Hassner, research director emeritus at CERi (the Centre d’Etudes et de Recherches Internationales) in Paris. Hassner spoke on the topic “Russia’s Transition to Autocracy: The Implications for World Politics.” For

many years Hassner was a professor of international relations at the Institut d'Etudes Politiques in Paris and a senior visiting lecturer at the European Center of Johns Hopkins University in Bologna. Currently a visiting professor at the Université du Québec à Montréal, he has previously held visiting appointments at the University of Chicago, Harvard University, and the Institut des Hautes Etudes Internationales in Geneva. Professor Hassner's major writings have focused on war and peace, totalitarianism, ethics and international relations, and international order. In 2005 he received France's prestigious Tocqueville Prize, which is awarded every two years; past recipients include such luminaries as Raymond Aron, Karl Popper, Octavio Paz, and Leszek Kolakowski.

The Lipset Lecture series is named for the late Seymour Martin Lipset, one of the most important comparative analysts of the two great democracies of North America, and a strong advocate for US-Canadian cooperation. The

lecture, which is jointly sponsored by the University of Toronto's Munk Centre for International Studies, provides an opportunity for influential audiences in both countries to hear and discuss a major intellectual statement on democracy each year and serves as a catalyst for further cooperation between Canada and the United States in the promotion of democracy and democratic ideas around the world.

Democracy Service Medals Awarded

The NED Board of Directors created its Democracy Service Medal in 1999 to recognize individuals who have demonstrated, through personal commitment, their dedication to the advancement of freedom, human rights, and democracy. In 2007, NED presented its Democracy Service Medal to three lifelong advocates of democracy and human rights: Václav Havel, Emmanuel Kampouris, and Mort Abramowitz.

NED presented the Democracy Service Medal to former Czech President Václav Havel on February 20, 2007, in a ceremony held at the Library of Congress in Washington, DC. NED Chairman Vin Weber noted in his presentation of the medal to Havel that 2007 marked the 30th anniversary of Charter 77, the dissident movement that Havel helped create that was instrumental in setting the stage for democracy in Czechoslovakia. The event included a forum that featured eight dissidents and activists from around the world discussing the struggle for human rights and democracy. The forum, titled "Dissidents and the Fight for Freedom," featured



Emmanuel Kampouris (left) was awarded NED's Democracy Service Medal by Carl Gershman (right) on March 14 at an event hosted by the New York Democracy Forum.

Oksana Chelysheva from Russia, Min Zin from Burma, Ramon Humberto Colas from Cuba, Ales Mihalevic from Belarus, Rebiya Kadeer from East Turkistan/China, Kim Seung Min from North Korea, and Ali Afshari and Manouchehr Mohammadi from Iran.

Emmanuel Kampouris received the Democracy Service Medal from NED on March 14. Kampouris served on the NED Board for nine years, the maximum term allowed. When Kampouris joined the NED Board, he was President and CEO of American Standard and also a leader in the US Chamber of Commerce, whose affiliated Center for International Private Enterprise is one of NED's four core institutes. Kampouris brought to NED a passion for democratic values and human rights, especially regarding the Middle East and his native Egypt.

On June 18, NED presented the Democracy Service Medal to Mort Abramowitz. Abramowitz also served on the NED board for nine years and made invaluable contributions as the Board expert at different times for NED's Central and Eastern Europe and Asia programs. Abramowitz is a senior fellow at the Century Foundation and former President



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of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. His long and distinguished career in the Foreign Service included postings as U.S. Ambassador to Turkey and Thailand.

New York Democracy Forum

The New York Democracy Forum (NYDF), a joint venture of NED and the Foreign Policy Association (FPA), continued its successful lecture series launched in 2005.

On February 12, Garry Kasparov spoke on the topic “The Prospects of Russian Democracy.” In the past year, the Kremlin-backed United Russia party has passed a series of laws restricting the activities of the media, nongovernmental organizations, and opposition groups. With the upcoming presidential and parliamentary elections in mind, Kasparov discussed the role of prodemocracy forces in Russia.

Christopher Cox spoke at a New York Democracy Forum dinner on “Democracy and Free Markets” on

New York Democracy Forum 2007 Lecture Series

- **February 12** – Garry Kasparov, *The Prospects for Russian Democracy*
- **March 14** – Christopher Cox, *Democracy and Free Markets*
- **April 18** – Alejandro Toledo, *Democracy or Populism: Responding to the Crisis in Latin America*
- **June 12** – Natasa Kandic, *Discussion of the film “Scorpions”*
- **September 24** – Michelle Bachelet, *Chile’s Transition to Democracy*

March 14, discussing the relationship between economic and political liberalization, and how this relationship affects a nation’s path to democracy. The event also featured the presentation of NED’s Democracy Service Medal to Emmanuel Kampouris. A member of the NED Board for nine years, Kampouris was also President and CEO of American Standard Companies and served on the Board of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

Former President of Peru Alejandro Toledo addressed the NYDF on April 18 on the topic “Democracy or Populism: Responding to the Crisis in Latin

America.” Toledo has recently been in residence at Stanford University as a Distinguished Scholar at the Center for Advanced Studies and Behavioral Science. He is also the president of the Center for Democracy and Development in Latin America in Lima, Peru.

Natasa Kandic, director of the Humanitarian Law Center (HLC) was present on June 12 to discuss “Scorpions,” a film produced by the HLC documenting Serbian war crimes. The film sheds light on atrocities committed during the Bosnian war by the Scorpions, a notorious Serbian military unit. Kandic herself tracked down shocking footage of the Scorpions executing six Bosniak civilians in Trnovo in 1995.

The New York Democracy Forum presented its Presidential Medal to Michelle Bachelet, President of Chile, on September 24. Bachelet is the first female president of Chile and previously served as Chile’s Defense Minister and Health Minister under President Ricardo Lagos. Bachelet addressed the New York Democracy Forum on Chile’s transition to democracy over the past 20 years and the challenges Chile faces today.

Video and additional information for most NED events are available on the NED website, www.ned.org.



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