

2008 Democracy Award



NED presented its 2008 Democracy Award to Chinese democracy activists and its Democracy Service Medal posthumously to Tom Lantos in a ceremony on Capitol Hill on June 17. Pictured left to right: NED Chairman Vin Weber, NED Vice Chairman Richard Gephardt, Annette Lantos, NED President Carl Gershman, Annette Lantos, Li Heping, Wang Tiancheng, Li Baiguang, and Xiao Qiang.

On Tuesday June 17, the National Endowment for Democracy honored the heroic efforts of Chinese workers, lawyers, and writers working to advance democratic values and fundamental rights within China with the presentation of its annual Democracy Award, this year focusing on *Heroes of Human Rights and Democracy in China*. Lawyers **Li Baiguang** and **Li Heping** were able to attend the Capitol Hill ceremony to accept their awards, while four other honorees, **Chen Guangcheng**, **Zhang Jianhong**, **Yao Fuxin**, and **Hu Shigen**, who are all serving sentences in Chinese prisons, were honored in absentia, along with **Dr. Teng Biao**, a lawyer and professor who is unable to leave China.

Li Baiguang is a practicing lawyer who specializes in administrative law cases and the rule of law with respect to religious belief and practice. He was

arrested and detained on December 14, 2004, after bringing legal action on behalf of over 100,000 peasants who were forcibly evicted from their land; since his release, he has been detained and physically attacked many times.

Li Heping has built a strong reputation as a defense lawyer in a large number of politically sensitive cases. Many of those he represents are Christian family churches, members of the Falun Gong, independent writers, and victims of forced eviction. Over the last year, Li has suffered escalating harassment including kidnapping, torture, and other physical intimidation.

Chen Guangheng is a self-taught lawyer and activist in Shandong province who has represented hundreds of villagers in rights-violation cases. In 2005, Chen was abducted by authorities and placed under house arrest. In 2006, he was arbi-

trarily detained, then tried on a sham criminal charge and was sentenced to four years and three months in prison, where he has been abused.

Zhang Jianhong is a cyber dissident and member of the Independent Chinese PEN Center. Zhang is a well-respected writer in China who contributed regularly to liberal-minded publications in China and to Chinese websites abroad. He was sentenced in March 2007 to a six-year sentence for “incitement to subversion of state power.”

Yao Fuxin is a labor leader from northern China who is currently serving a seven-year sentence for leading peaceful demonstrations protesting corruption and unpaid wages in Liaoyang City in 2002. Despite a UN ruling that Yao’s arrest was arbitrary, he remains in prison where he has suffered a heart attack, and other ailments, but has been repeatedly denied medical parole.

Hu Shigen, a labor and political activist, university lecturer, and writer, is one of the few remaining Chinese citizens charged with “counter-revolutionary crimes” to remain in prison. He was arrested in September 1992 for planning activities to commemorate the 1989 Tiananmen Square crackdown. Hu was a founding member of the China Freedom and Democracy Party and has campaigned for government accountability for the violent suppression of the democracy movement in June 1989.

Dr. Teng Biao is a leading innovator in rights defense law and has been counsel in numerous human rights cases. While he continues his work as a lecturer at the Law School of the China University of Politi-



The Democracy Service Medal was presented to Ambassador Max Kampelman on May 22 in recognition of his lifetime achievement in advancing principles of freedom, human rights, and democracy at an event at the U.S. Department of State, which included tributes by John Negroponte, James Billington, Paula Dobriansky, and Senator Joseph Lieberman among others. Pictured right to left: NED President Carl Gershman, Ambassador Max Kampelman, NED Chairman Vin Weber.

cal Science and Law, Teng's movements are restricted and harassment has escalated. Authorities recently refused to renew his lawyer's license because of his willingness to represent Tibetans detained following the March 2008 protests.

The Democracy Awards were presented by three members of the U.S. Congress, Representatives **Chris Smith** (R-NJ), **Adam Schiff** (D-CA), and **Frank Wolf** (R-VA), as well as the vice chairman of NED's Board of Directors and former House Democratic Leader **Richard Gephardt**. Under Secretary of State for Democracy and Global Affairs **Paula Dobriansky** and House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman **Howard Berman** (D-CA) also

made remarks at the program. **Wang Tiancheng**, another Chinese lawyer who has spent 5 years in prison for his activism, was on hand to accept the award given to Yao Fuzin and Hu Si-gen for their defense of worker rights.

The award presentation was preceded by a roundtable discussion, *Law, Rights and Democracy in China: Perspectives of Leading Advocates*. The honorees were joined in the discussion by other notable activists and advocates for basic rights in China, including: **Han Dongfang**, executive director of *China Labour Bulletin*; **Bob Fu**, founder of the China Aid Association and a student leader of the 1989 Tiananmen democracy movement; **Sharon Hom**, executive director of Human Rights in China;

Xiao Qiang, founder and publisher of *China Digital Times*; **Wang Tiancheng**, a founder of the Liberal Democratic Party of China and the Free Labor Union of China; and **Yang Jianli**, a Chinese democracy activist recently released from prison, who now is president of Initiatives for China.

Democracy Service Medals

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 2008, NED presented its Democracy Service Medal to Ambassador Max Kampelman and the late Tom Lantos.

Tom Lantos

On June 17, NED honored the life-long contributions of one of the U.S. Congress' most stalwart supporters of human rights, the late Tom Lantos (D-CA), with the presentation of the Democracy Service Medal. The medal was presented by House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman **Howard Berman** as part of the proceedings of NED's 2008 Democracy Award, which this year focused on *Heroes of Human Rights and Democracy in China*.

Lantos was the co-founder and co-chairman of the Congressional Caucus on Human Rights and had been a vocal critic of the human rights situation in China. Lantos spoke out in support of Tibetans and the Dalai Lama and on behalf of oppressed minorities such as the Uyghurs. He also spoke out repeatedly against violations of freedom of speech in China, most recently in regards to restrictions on the Internet.

Lantos, the only Holocaust survivor to serve in Congress, worked through the Congressional Caucus on Human Rights to protect religious freedom, including a bill in 2004 to stop the spread of anti-semitism. The many human rights issues Lantos was involved in included protesting the role of the Sudanese government in the genocide in Darfur and standing up for the rights of Hungarian minorities. The Democracy Service Medal was accepted by his wife, Annette Lantos.

Max Kampelman

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In his career as a public servant, Max Kampelman took on many roles, including aide, confidant, and friend of Hubert Humphrey; the head of the U.S. delegation to the human rights Helsinki review conference in Madrid; and President Reagan's chief negotiator in the nuclear arms control talks with the Soviet Union; and, most recently, the motivating force behind a new initiative to rid the world of nuclear weapons.

In NED's written tribute to Kampelman, he is described as "a champion of freedom at home and abroad, a realist with vision in the cause of peace, an optimist who has never lost faith in mankind's capacity to

overcome evil and build a better and safer world" and someone who "continues to maintain that our ideals and interests are inextricably linked, and that democracy is the only lasting foundation of world peace."

Jean Bethke Elshtain Delivers Fifth Annual Lipset Lecture

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Jean Bethke Elshtain is a political philosopher whose task has been to show the connections between our political and ethical convictions. One of America's leading public

intellectuals, her work over the past thirty-five years has contributed to national debates on the family, the roles of men and women, the state of American democracy, and America's role in international affairs.

Elshtain has a long history as a professor and lecturer. In 1973, she joined the faculty of the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, where she taught until 1988. She joined the faculty of Vanderbilt University in 1988 as the first woman to hold an endowed professorship in the history of that institution. She was appointed to her current position as the Laura Spelman Rockefeller Professor of Social and Political Ethics at the Uni-

versity of Chicago Divinity School in 1995. In 2002, Elshtain received the Frank J. Goodnow award, the highest award for distinguished service to the profession given by the American Political Science Association.

A prolific author, Professor Elshtain has published more than five hundred essays in scholarly and popular journals and is a contributing editor for *The New Republic*. She has authored, co-authored, or edited twenty books including *Just War Against Terror: The Burden of American Power in a Violent World* (2003), which was named one of the best non-fiction books of 2003 by *Publishers Weekly*.

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.



Memorial Gathering in Honor of Bronislaw Geremek

On September 11, NED and the Polish Embassy cosponsored a memorial gathering to honor the life and work of former Polish Foreign Minister Bronislaw Geremek, whose life was tragically cut short in a car accident on July 13, 2008.

A survivor of the Holocaust, Bronislaw Geremek became a leading academic, dissident, statesman, and diplomat in post-war Poland. A gifted social historian, he joined the Solidarity trade union movement in 1980 and emerged as a key advisor to Lech Walesa in the Gdansk shipyards. Imprisoned during martial law, Geremek played a leading role in the 1989 Round Table Agreement that negotiated an end to Communist rule in Poland, setting in motion the events that led to the collapse of Soviet domination throughout Eastern Europe. Geremek's contributions to his country's democratic transition were constant in the years after 1989, culminating in his role as foreign minister, when he guided Poland's entry into NATO and the European Union.

The event included tributes from Former Secretary of State **Madeleine Albright**, Under Secretary of State for Global Affairs and Democracy **Paula Dobriansky**, Ambassador **Max Kampelman**, Ambassador of Poland to the United States **H.E. Robert Kupiecki**, Senator **Richard Lugar**, and Polish Foreign Minister **Radoslaw Sikorski**.



North Korean defector and pianist Kim Cheol-Woong made his debut at two special performances in the U.S., one in New York on May 21 and the other at the U.S. Department of State in Washington, D.C., on October 2. The events highlighted the struggle for human rights and freedom of expression in North Korea.

New York Democracy Forum

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

On May 14, **José Miguel Insulza** spoke on the topic “Advancing Democracy in Latin America: The Role of the OAS.” When Insulza was elected to the post of Secretary General of the Organization of American States in May 2005, he pledged to strengthen the Organization’s “political relevance and its capacity for action.” Insulza discussed how the OAS is taking the lead in strengthening democratic development and advancing democratic practices throughout the hemisphere.

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New York Democracy Forum 2008 Lecture Series

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- **May 21** - Kim Cheol-Woong, *Escaping North Korea in Search of Music*
- **October 7** - Lodi Gyaltzen Gyari, *Tibet and China: Dialogue at a Crossroads*

October 2. The events highlighted the struggle for human rights and freedom of expression in North Korea. Kim was trained as a classical musician in Pyongyang where the opportunities for creative expression are extremely limited as musicians are expected to play patriotic music that supports government policy and the simple act of listening to foreign music is banned. At both concerts, Kim played pieces that were significant in his two-year journey toward freedom in South Korea and spoke of his experiences under the North Korean regime.

On October 7, the New York Democracy Forum, along with the Asia Society, hosted “Tibet and China: Dialogue at a Crossroads” featuring **Lodi Gyaltzen Gyari**, Special Envoy of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, and *New York Times* columnist **Nicholas Kristof**. As the eighth round of talks between Tibetan envoys and the Chinese government drew near, Gyari expressed his hope in this discussion with Kristof that the Chinese would be “wise enough not to miss this opportunity” for substantive progress on the China-Tibet relationship.