

# REAGAN-FASCELL

## Democracy Fellows Program

FELLOWSHIPS

Named in honor of two of NED's principal founders, former US President Ronald Reagan and the late US Congressman Dante Fascell (D-FL), the Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellows Program enables democratic activists, practitioners, scholars, and journalists from around the world to deepen their understanding of democracy and enhance their ability to promote democratic change. The program is based at the International Forum for Democratic Studies, NED's research and publications arm, in Washington, D.C. Reagan-Fascell fellowships are typically five months in duration and focus on the political, social, economic, legal, and cultural aspects of democratic development.

In 2010–2011, the Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellows Program hosted leading democratic activists, journalists, and scholars from a wide range of countries, including **Angola, Cameroon, China, Georgia, Ghana, India, Iran, Mauritius, Mexico, Nigeria, Russia, Ukraine, and Venezuela.**



**Ms. Mahboubeh Abbasgholizadeh** (Iran, Feb.-July 2011) is a women's rights activist, journalist, and filmmaker from

Iran. A founding member of the Stop Stoning Forever campaign and the Iranian Women's Charter Movement, she is currently the coordinator of Zanan TV ([www.ZananTV.org](http://www.ZananTV.org)), an online television channel that promotes gender equality in Iran. During her fellowship, she developed a strategic framework for locating common ground between Iran's Green movement and the Iranian women's movement, delivering a NED presentation in June 2011 entitled "Engendering the Movement for Democracy in Iran."



**Mr. Dayo Aiyetan** (Nigeria, Oct. 2010-Feb. 2011) is founding director of the International Center for

Investigative Reporting (ICIR) in Abuja. He previously served as senior associate editor and Abuja bureau chief for TELL, one of Nigeria's preeminent independent political magazines. During his fellowship, Mr. Aiyetan examined the role of investigative journalism, especially non-profit newsrooms and reporting centers, in promoting public accountability, transparency, and integrity in Nigeria. In Jan. 2011, he gave a presentation at NED entitled "Combating Corruption in Nigeria: The Promise of Investigative Reporting."



**Dr. Arturo Alvarado** (Mexico, Oct. 2010-Feb. 2011) is professor in the department of sociology at El Colegio de México

(Center for Social Science). He is also a founder of Democracia, Derechos Humanos y Seguridad, an NGO based in Mexico City. During his fellowship, he used case studies of Brazil, Colombia, and Mexico to investigate

how the rise of endemic violence in Latin America is challenging democratic consolidation. In Feb. 2011, he gave a presentation at NED entitled "Violence, Criminality, and the Erosion of the Democratic State in Latin America."



**Dr. Levan Berdzenishvili** (Georgia, Oct. 2010-Feb. 2011) is founding president of the Republican Institute, a think tank focus-

ing on civic education and democracy building in Georgia. Following his involvement in the establishment of the underground Republican Party of Georgia in 1978, he spent three years in the Soviet Gulag (1984–87). Trained as a classical philologist, he helped to found the United National Movement of Georgia, along with future president Mikheil Saakashvili, and was a member of the Georgian parliament from 2004 to 2008. During his fellowship, Dr. Berdzenishvili studied the historical and cultural challenges facing Georgian democracy and published articles offering analysis and commentary on politics in his country. In Feb. 2011, he gave a presentation at NED entitled "A Not-So Rosy Result: Georgia Seven Years after the Rose Revolution."



**Dr. Anton Burkov** (Russia, Oct. 2010-Feb. 2011) is a lawyer based in Yekaterinburg, Russia. A human rights advocate, he

has litigated cases in Russian courts, including the Supreme and Constitutional courts, and currently serves as a legal representative in a number of

cases before the European Court of Human Rights. During his fellowship, Dr. Burkov investigated the principles that the European Convention can contribute to Russian legislation and legal practice. He also explored the establishment of an international human rights exchange program between Russian and US law schools. Dr. Burkov gave a presentation in Feb. 2011 at NED entitled "Bringing Human Rights Home: Application of the European Convention in Russian Courts."



**Ms. Anne Stella Fomumbod** (Cameroon, March-July 2011) is founder and chief executive officer of Interfaith Vision Foundation

Cameroon (IVFCam), an NGO based in Cameroon's Northwest region that works with community-based organizations to promote human rights and democracy at the grassroots level. During her fellowship, Ms. Fomumbod developed a blueprint for a center on human rights and women's political participation in Cameroon. In June 2011 she delivered a presentation at NED entitled "From the Grassroots to the Nation: Promoting Women's Human Rights and Political Participation in Cameroon."



**Dr. Roukaya Kasenally** (Mauritius, Oct. 2010-Feb. 2011) is senior lecturer in media and political systems at the University

of Mauritius. She is also co-founder and president of the Institute of Social Development and Peace, a think tank promoting dialogue and debate on issues of

human security, electoral reform, and poverty eradication in southern Africa. During her fellowship, Dr. Kasenally investigated how the mechanisms of deliberative democracy may be applied to Mauritius in order to deepen its democratic culture. In Dec. 2010, she gave a presentation at NED entitled "From Postcard to Scorecard: Assessing the Quality of Democracy in Mauritius."



**Mr. Rafael Marques de Morais** (Angola, March-Sept 2011) is an award-winning journalist with a special interest

in political economy and human rights in Angola. In 2009, he founded the watchdog website "Maka," dedicated to exposing corruption in his country. During his fellowship, Mr. Morais examined the extent to which institutionalized corruption affects rule of law, democratization, and functionality of the Angolan state. In May 2011, he gave a presentation at NED entitled "Corruption in Angola: An Impediment to Democracy."



**Dr. Medha Nanivadekar** (India, March-July 2011) is director of the Center for Women's Studies at Shivaji University in Kolhapur, India, and president of Bharatiya Stree Shakti, an Indian women's organization. During her fellowship, Dr. Nanivadekar examined women's quotas worldwide in order to devise effective strategies for negotiating equal gender quotas in the Indian parliament. In June 2011, she gave a NED

presentation entitled "Making Gender Quotas Work: A Case for Doubling the Seats in the Indian Parliament."



**Dr. Carlos Ponce** (Venezuela, March-July 2011) is general coordinator of the Latin American and Caribbean Network for

Democracy, a network of over 210 civil society organizations across the Americas. He is also a lecturer at Tufts University and a member of the steering committee of the World Movement for Democracy (WMD). During his fellowship, he examined ways in which civil society organizations can improve strategies to defend democracy in Latin America, including regional mechanisms to guarantee freedom of association.



**Prof. H. Kwasi Prempeh** (Ghana, April-July 2011) is a professor at Seton Hall University School of Law, in New Jersey, where

he teaches courses in constitutional law and comparative constitutionalism. During his fellowship, Professor Prempeh undertook a comprehensive review of Ghana's constitutional and legal systems in order to identify ways in which the current constitution and the existing regime of laws have been complicit in the entrenchment of Ghana's imperial presidency. In June 2011, he delivered a presentation at NED entitled "How (Not) to Write an African Constitution: Reflections on Ghana's Current Constitutional Review."



**Mr. Mykola Riabchuk**

(Ukraine, March-July 2011) is a senior research fellow at the Ukrainian Center

for Cultural Studies (UCCS) in Kyiv, and co-founder of *Krytyka*, a leading Ukrainian magazine. During his fellowship, Mr. Riabchuk completed a book manuscript on the democratic transitions of Eastern Europe, with a focus on Ukraine. In May 2011, he delivered a presentation at NED entitled "Ukraine's Convoluted Transition: Between Dysfunctional Democracy and Unconsolidated Authoritarianism."



**Dr. Luis Ugalde**

(Mexico, March-July 2011) has, over the past 20 years, combined a distinguished academic career

with high-ranking positions within the Mexican government. During his fellowship, Dr. Ugalde compared his experience during Mexico's 2006 presidential election with other cases of contested elections, exploring the factors that increase the likelihood of post-electoral conflict in new and consolidated democracies. In June 2011, he gave a presentation at NED entitled "The 2012 Mexican Elections: A New Test for Democracy."



**Mr. Wan**

**Yanhai** (China, Nov. 2010-March 2011) has been a leading voice on HIV/AIDS-related human rights issues in

China for almost two decades. In 1994, he founded the Beijing Aizhi Action Project (later renamed the Beijing Aizhixing Institute of Health Education) and has aided in the development of numerous other NGOs to benefit populations on the margins of society. During his fellowship, Mr. Wan analyzed strategies for strengthening human rights and civil society development in China. He gave a presentation at NED in March 2011 entitled "The Nobel Peace Prize and China's Human Rights Movement."

## Visiting Fellows Program

In addition to the Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellows Program, the International Forum for Democratic Studies hosts a small Visiting Fellows Program for scholars and practitioners with outside funding who wish to be affiliated with the Forum. During the 2010–2011 fellowship year, the Forum hosted Visiting Fellows Stephen Ndegwa, Mary Speck, and Allen Weinstein.



**Dr. Stephen**

**Ndegwa** (Kenya, March-Aug. 2011) is a Lead Public Sector Governance Specialist at the World Bank in Washington,

D.C. His fellowship project focused on legislative-driven budget processes and devolved development funds. He gave a roundtable presentation on his fellowship topic at NED on April 21, 2011.



**Dr. Mary Speck**

(US, Oct. 2010-July 2011) conducted research concerning Cuba's failed democratic movement from 1950

to the consolidation of communist rule in the early 1960s. Following her fellowship, she accepted a position as a senior analyst with the International Crisis Group's Latin America Program.



In 2010–2011, NED's Democracy Resource Center (DRC) and Visiting Fellows Program welcomed the first Visiting Library

Fellow, **Professor Allen Weinstein** (US, June 2010-May 2011). A distinguished public intellectual who headed the Democracy Program that led to NED's founding in 1984, Weinstein used his fellowship to contribute a treasure trove of materials to NED's Library, including documents relating to the Endowment's earliest days. As a Visiting Library Fellow, he conducted research for his book manuscript, *Odyssey: The Democratic Revolutions of Our Time*, and gave a roundtable presentation chaired by NED president Carl Gershman.