

2010 Democracy Award Honors Iran's Green Movement



Left to right: Author Azar Nafisi, NED Vice Chair Judy Shelton, Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro, NED President Carl Gershman, Mahnaz Afkhami, filmmaker Babak Payami, and Samantha Power pose with the 2010 Democracy Award presented on June 10 to honor the democracy movement in Iran.

On June 20, 2010, the National Endowment for Democracy honored the resilience and courage of Iran's democracy movement with the presentation of its annual Democracy Award at a ceremony on Capitol Hill. The evening featured remarks by Congressional leaders, including Reps. **Ileana Ros-Lehtinen** and **Rosa DeLauro**, as well as a special message sent by **President Obama**. National Security Council Senior Director for Multilateral Affairs **Samantha Power**, best-selling author **Azar Nafisi**

and NED president **Carl Gershman** also addressed the gathering. A short film, *Iran: A Struggle for Freedom*, made by Iranian filmmaker **Babak Payami** for the occasion and narrated by Nafisi, was shown at the ceremony. The film can be viewed at www.ned.org. The award was accepted on behalf of the Green Movement in absentia by noted Iranian poet **Simin Behbahani**. The evening closed with a musical performance by **Mohsen Namjoo**.

The award presentation was preceded by a half-day conference, *One Year Later:*

Prospects for a Democratic Transition in Iran. The conference opened with remarks from **Senator Ted Kaufman** and **Senator John McCain**, and featured expert panels on "Lessons from Other Transitions to Democracy" and "Strategic Challenges for the Democratic Movement in Iran." Video from the conference is available online at www.ned.org. The conference closed with a special screening of *For Neda*, an HBO documentary about Neda Agha-Soltan's life and tragic death in the protests following the 2009 presidential elections in Iran.

The Democracy Award was accepted in absentia by the Iranian poet Simin Behbahani. She sent a statement that was read by Mahnaz Afkhami, who hailed Behbahani as "the poet laureate of Iran's people." Behbahani has been banned from travel by the Iranian government, and her house is under constant surveillance.

Written for the democracy movement of the people of Iran
by *Simin Behbahani*

*Let green Spring burst forth...
Let green flora come alive
Let joy fill the heart of all
Who are grieved by this morbid ashen Fall*



Iranian poet Simin Behbahani.



Iranian musician Mohsen Namjoo played at the Democracy Award ceremony.

Democracy Service Medal

The Endowment's 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 2010, NED presented its Democracy Service Medal to Holiness the Dalai Lama, Dr. Francis Fukuyama and the Honorable Vin Weber.

The Dalai Lama

The Endowment was honored to host His Holiness the Dalai Lama in his only public appearance after meeting President Obama in February 2010. After remarks by NED vice-chairman Judy Shelton, the Librarian of Congress James Billington and NED president Carl Gershman, the Dalai Lama regaled a packed auditorium with reflections on a life of exile and advocacy. Commenting on the significance of the honor for the Dalai Lama and the Tibetan people, NED President Carl Gershman said,

"The struggle of the Tibetan people to preserve their culture is world renowned. What is little known, however, is that the Dalai Lama, even before leaving Tibet, sought to implement significant reforms in the system of government. Only in exile was the Dalai Lama able to implement those reforms. Today, the Tibetan community in exile operates under a democratic constitution, with an elected National Assembly and a Supreme Court, with day-to-day powers vested in an elected prime minister. The Dalai Lama himself has often said that it is not enough to oppose Chinese totalitarianism, but that it is necessary to offer a democratic alternative. Because the Tibetan people have transformed their



The Democracy Service Medal



The Dalai Lama, flanked by Carl Gershman (left) and Judy Shelton (right), received NED's Democracy Service Medal in 2010.

suffering into a source of moral strength, they have become an inspiration to others who have suffered injustice."

Francis Fukuyama

In June 2010, the Endowment honored the work of long-time friend and board member Dr. Francis Fukuyama. The presentation was preceded by a panel on "China, India and the Future of Democracy." Panelists Marc Plattner, Larry Diamond, Andrew Nathan, Sumit Ganguly, Bruce Gilley and Francis Fukuyama discussed the future prospects

of these alternative development models and the consequences for the future of democracy around the world.

Fukuyama joined the *Journal of Democracy* editorial board in 1993, and is one of the *Journal's* most frequent contributors.

He has worked closely with the International Forum for Democratic Studies, including reviewing applications for the Reagan-Fascell fellows program and taking part in meetings and conferences. And during his three consecutive three-year terms as a NED Board member, Fukuyama played an integral role in the grant-making process.

Fukuyama became the Olivier Nomellini Senior Fellow at Stanford University's Free-



Francis Fukuyama was honored with the Democracy Service Medal in 2010.

man Spogli Institute for International Studies in July 2010, where he is currently based. He is the author of *The End of History and the Last Man* and many other volumes.

Vin Weber

The National Endowment for Democracy honored its former Chairman Vin Weber with the Democracy Service medal at a Capitol Hill ceremony in July. Leading Democrats, including former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and House Foreign Affairs Committee chairman Howard Berman (D-CA), joined prominent Republicans like Sen. John Kyl (R-AZ) and Congressman Paul Ryan (R-WI) to affirm that support for democracy transcends partisan

In Memoriam

In 2010, NED mourned the passing of two long-time colleagues.

Ambassador Richard Holbrooke served on the Endowment's Board of Directors from 2001-2009.

"The loss of Richard Holbrooke is deeply felt by all who believe that US engagement abroad should be guided not only by interests, but also by ideals," said NED Chairman Richard Gephardt. "Holbrooke's service to the National Endowment for Democracy, and to all those NED assists around the world, was but one example of his dedication to the ideals of freedom and human rights."

Holbrooke played a major role in the launch of the New York Democracy Forum, a partnership of the Endowment and the Foreign Policy Association, and was involved in the Forum's activities during his tenure on the NED Board. His advice and counsel, and his spirit of democratic solidarity, will be missed.

Former **Rep. Stephen J. Solarz** (D-NY) was a leading voice in Congress for U.S. engagement on behalf of democracy and human rights. Solarz served on NED's Board of Directors 1992-2001.

"Steve was that rare member of Congress who, by the sheer force of his intellect and personality, and the respect he commanded from our country's leading decision makers, managed to play a major role in shaping U.S. foreign policy," said Gephardt.

Solarz, who was one of the earliest congressional proponents of the Endowment, received NED's Democracy Service Medal in 2001. While on the Endowment's Board, he played an especially important role in encouraging NED's support for NGOs working to advance the cause of human rights in North Korea.



Ambassador Richard Holbrooke



Stephen Solarz (center) was awarded the NED Democracy Service Medal in 2000.

politics. NED president Carl Gershman paid tribute to Weber's service by observing,

For eight years the National Endowment



Madeleine Albright joined NED in honoring Vin Weber with the Democracy Service Medal.

for Democracy was privileged to have Vin Weber as the Chairman of its Board. He was a superb Chairman. It wasn't just that he was always available when needed, or that he invariably managed a very heavy agenda with an easy-going authority and unmistakable aplomb. Even more important was his wholehearted embrace of the NED's bipartisan character and his proud identification with the spirit and the purpose of its mission.

Ivan Krastev Delivers Seventh Annual Lipset Lecture

The Seventh Annual Lipset Lecture was delivered on October 19, 2010, at the Embassy of Canada in Washington, D.C.,

by Ivan Krastev, Chairman of the Centre for Liberal Strategies (Bulgaria). Krastev spoke on "Paradoxes of the New Authoritarianism," looking at how authoritarian regimes are surviving in the age of democracy.

One of postcommunist Europe's leading intellectuals, Krastev's lecture centered on three thought-provoking questions: Why are authoritarian regimes surviving in the age of democratization? Why did political science fail to anticipate the resilience of authoritarian regimes? And finally, why it is so difficult to resist modern authoritarianism? His full lecture is available online at www.ned.org.

The Lipset Lecture series, sponsored jointly by NED and the Munk Center for International Affairs at the University of Toronto (where Krastev spoke on October 20), is named after one of the twentieth century's most influential social scientists and scholars of democracy, Seymour Martin Lipset. The Lipset Lecture acts as a vehicle for continued cooperation between the United States and Canada in promoting democracy and democratic ideals around the world, and provides an annual opportunity for influential audiences of both the United States and Canada to hear and discuss a declaration on democracy by a prominent intellectual.



Ivan Krastev delivered the Seventh Annual Lipset Lecture.