

2006 Democracy Award

On July 27, 2006, NED honored four democratic activists from Sudan, Sierra Leone, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Zimbabwe with the Endowment's annual Democracy Award. The event, which featured a roundtable discussion addressing the recent challenges to continued democratic progress in Africa, highlighted the courageous and inspiring work of the four honorees, who all lead civil society organizations that are responsible for important advances in the fields of human rights, women's rights, government transparency, independent media, and free and fair elections.

Alfred Taban serves as the publisher and chairman of the board of directors of the *Khartoum Monitor*, Sudan's only independent English-language daily newspaper. Mr. Taban has demonstrated extraordinary personal courage in the face of repeated detention, threats, and financial hardship, persevering to advocate for national reconciliation, human rights, and democracy.

"The challenge that faces Africa today is how to build strong, democratic institutions. By and large, I do believe that the prospects for democracy in Africa are great," declared **Zainab Bangura**, a seasoned activist for good governance, human rights, and accountability in her native Sierra Leone. Zainab now serves as Chief Civil Affairs Officer to the UN Mission in Liberia. In 1995, she



NED honored four democratic activists from Africa with its 2006 Democracy Award. From left to right: Representative Gregory Meeks, Paula Dobriansky, Alfred Taban, Carl Gershman, Reginald Matchaba-Hove, Vin Weber, Immaculee Birahuka, Sierra Leone's Ambassador Ibrahim Kamara, Zainab Bangura.

founded Women Organized for a Morally Enlightened Nation (W.O.M.E.N.), Sierra Leone's first non-partisan women's political rights organization.

One of the Congo's leading human rights activists, **Immaculée Birahuka** is the co-founder and president of Promotion and Support of Women's Initiatives (PAIF), an organization she created in the city of Goma, in 1995. Ms. Birahuka has been dedicated to protecting and promoting women's rights, visiting political prisoners and seeking improvements in the conditions of their detention, and leading efforts to end the massive rape of women and girls in eastern Congo.

Reginald Matchaba-Hove is a leading human rights activist in Zimbabwe and Southern Africa. His career has focused on empowering Zimbabweans to protect fundamental civil rights, ensuring free, fair, and transparent elections, and facilitating

the provision of basic social services. He currently serves as the chairman of the Zimbabwe Election Support Network (ZESN) and the Open Society Initiative of Southern Africa.

The roundtable discussion, titled "Africa's Democratic Prospect," preceded the awards ceremony. Chaired by Congressmen Ed Royce (R-CA) and Donald Payne (D-NJ), the discussion included remarks by the four honorees, in addition to regional experts and NED Africa Director Dave Peterson. Following the roundtable discussion, the Democracy Awards were presented by U.S. Congressmen James Clyburn (D-SC), Gregory Meeks (D-NY), and Donald Payne (D-NJ).

Commending the honorees, NED President Carl Gershman remarked that, "the hope for Africa is that there is now an awakened civil society that is represented by the people here today who make up the internal bulwark of

democracy." The awardees were also welcomed to the White House, where they shared their personal stories and discussed their work to promote human rights and democratic principles with President George W. Bush in the Oval Office. President Bush congratulated the activists and commented that, "my spirits are enriched by talking to freedom lovers and freedom fighters."

NED Launches the Center for International Media Assistance

Since its founding, the National Endowment for Democracy has fostered and recognized the crucial role of free and independent media in democratic processes and has awarded hundreds of grants to such media-related initiatives

as journalism training, media literacy, and journalism centers. In September 2006, with the encouragement of the U.S. Congress and the Department of State, NED established the **Center for International Media Assistance (CIMA)**. The objective of this new initiative is to strengthen U.S. support for free and independent media, a key pillar for vibrant democracy, throughout the world and to bring greater visibility and coherence to the growing field of media assistance.

The Center supports an Advisory Council on Media Assistance comprising individuals from the field of media development. In the coming year, CIMA will convene working groups to study critical issues in

media development, including the legal enabling environment for media, economic sustainability of media, and professional development of journalists. CIMA will issue reports based on working group discussions to provide policy makers, as well as donors and practitioners, ideas for improving the effectiveness of U.S. media assistance.

CIMA will also serve as a forum for numerous organizations active in the field of media assistance. Through meetings, panel discussions and other events, CIMA will bring together media assistance practitioners and funders, government officials, academics, and other experts to share their ideas, experiences, and best practices in the field of media development.

NED Reports on the Backlash Against Democracy Assistance

In testimony before the U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations on June 8, 2006, NED President Carl Gershman released a comprehensive new study examining the efforts of foreign governments to crackdown on civil society and prevent it from receiving international assistance. The report was prepared by NED at the request of the Committee's Chairman, Senator Richard Lugar (R-IN), a former NED Board Member.

The 52-page report is titled *The Backlash Against Democracy Assistance*. Drawing upon the experiences of NED's grantees, including its four affiliated institutes, as well as the research of the International Center for Not for Profit Law, the report asserts that government efforts to constrain democracy assistance have recently intensified and now seriously impede democracy assistance in a

number of states. This backlash is particularly pronounced in the former Soviet states of Eurasia, as well as in China, Venezuela, Egypt and Zimbabwe. Representatives of democracy assistance NGOs have been harassed, offices closed and staff expelled. Even more vulnerable are local grantees and project partners who have been threatened, assaulted, prosecuted, and imprisoned. Other government tactics include funding for antidemocratic forces, and the creation of officially-sanctioned NGOs to frustrate genuine democratization.

Despite these developments, the report documents that the demand for democratic assistance is greater than ever, and it emphasizes that there is a long history of successful democracy assistance, even in very challenging circumstances. The report concludes with a number of concrete recommendations for Congressional action to counter the new backlash. The full report is available on the NED website, www.ned.org.



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Irving Kristol (pictured above) and several friends and colleagues spoke at Lipset's memorial service on February 28, 2006.

fellow at the Hoover Institution at Stanford and as the Hazel Professor of Public Policy at George Mason University. Among other recognitions for his work, Lipset received the MacIver Prize for *Political Man* and the Gunnar Myrdal Prize for *The Politics of Unreason*. Lipset was honored with NED's Democracy Service Medal in 2004.

A Memorial Tribute honoring Lipset's life and work was held on February 28, 2006. The tribute was sponsored by NED, the School for Advanced International Studies (SAIS) of Johns Hopkins University, and the George Mason University School of Public Policy. The program included remarks and remembrances by several of Lipset's colleagues and friends, including Francis Fukuyama, William Schneider, Irving Kristol, Karlyn Bowman, Don Kash, Max Kampleman, Marc Plattner, Tom Edsall, Michael Barone, and Larry Diamond.

Despite Lipset's passing, his legacy of insightful political analysis will continue to live on with the annual Seymour Martin Lipset Lecture on Democracy in



Seymour Martin Lipset

racy ever produced by a single author," said NED President Carl Gershman.

Lipset's major work spanned the fields of political sociology, trade union organization, social stratification, public opinion, and the sociology of intellectual life. His most recent academic affiliations were as a senior

Memorial Tribute for Seymour Martin Lipset and Third Annual Lipset Lecture

On December 31, 2006, NED mourned the loss of friend and colleague Seymour Martin Lipset. Lipset was one of the most influential and prolific social scientists of the twentieth century and contributed greatly to the understanding of democratic development throughout the world. "Marty Lipset's scholarship on themes such as the conditions for democracy, political parties, voting behavior, and public opinion constitutes one of the most prolific and insightful bodies of work on democ-



Dr. Saad Eddin Ibrahim spoke on "Toward Islamic Democracies" at the third annual Seymour Martin Lipset Lecture on Democracy in the World.

the World. NED hosted the third annual Lipset Lecture on November 1, 2006.

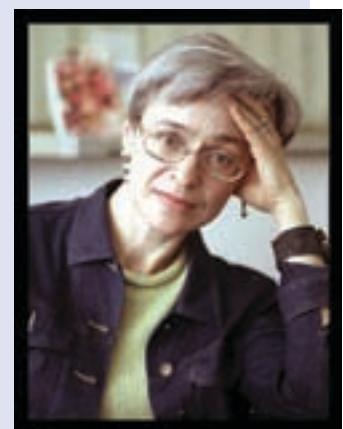
The 2006 Lipset Lecture was delivered by Egyptian democracy activist and scholar Dr. Saad Eddin Ibrahim on the topic "Toward Islamic Democracies." Saad Eddin Ibrahim is founder and chairman of the Ibn Khaldun Center for Development Studies and professor of political sociology at the American University in Cairo. Dr. Ibrahim has been an outspoken advocate of democracy and human rights in the Arab world and his arrest in 2000 and subsequent seven-year sentence for accepting foreign funds without permission and "tarnishing" Egypt's image sparked a loud outcry from the international community. Previous Lipset Lectures were delivered by Fernando Henrique Cardoso (2004) and Francis Fukuyama (2005).

Lipset was 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

Memorial Tribute for Anna Politkovskaya

On October 16, NED hosted a memorial gathering in honor of Anna Politkovskaya, the courageous reporter for the Moscow newspaper *Novaya Gazeta* who was brutally murdered at her apartment building on October 7, 2006. The mother of two, Politkovskaya was a fearless journalist committed to reporting the truth about the conflict in Chechnya, which she called "a small corner of hell."

Throughout her distinguished career as a Russian journalist, Politkovskaya was an outspoken advocate for human rights and an end to the devastating war in Chechnya. Up to the day of her passing, Politkovskaya reported on the corruption and abuses of high-ranking officials and the need to protect the victims of the war. On the day of her death, she planned to file a story in the *Novaya Gazeta* on torture practices believed to be used by Chechen authorities.



Anna Politkovskaya

The memorial gathering at NED included remarks by several friends, colleagues and admirers of Politkovskaya who shared memories and bore witness to her courage, humanity, and dedication to truth. Politkovskaya was posthumously honored with the 2007 United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize, the first time the honor has been bestowed posthumously in its ten-year history.

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.

New York Democracy Forum Continues

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

2006. The 2006 lecture series featured two members of NED's Board of Directors, Richard Holbrooke, and Esther Dyson, as well as head of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Kemal Dervis, and former Mexican Foreign Minister Jorge Castañeda.

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 its 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

New York Democracy Forum 2006 Lecture Series

- **March 8** – Richard Holbrooke, *How can America Advance Democracy Around the World*
- **May 22** – H. E. Kemal Dervis, *Development and Democratic Governance: Some Key Issues*
- **October 30** – Dr. Jorge Castañeda, *Democratization in the Western Hemisphere: Prospects and Challenges*
- **November 27** – Esther Dyson, *A Virtualist Tours the World: The Internet and the Emergence of Democracy*

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 NYDF is creating opportunities for engagement with some of the world's current and future leaders.

Tom Donahue Honored with the Democracy Service Medal

Retiring NED Vice Chairman **Thomas R. Donahue** was honored by the Endowment with the Democracy Service Medal on March 16, 2006. The ceremony took place at a pre-St. Patrick's Day dinner at the home of Democratic Party activist Esther Coopersmith.

On hand to offer praise and congratulations were Senator Paul Sarbanes (D-MD) and former House Democratic Leader Richard Gephardt; both are members of the NED Board, and Gephardt succeeds Donahue as NED Vice Chairman. John Joyce, former president of the Bricklayers International Union, and NED President Carl Gershman also offered tributes to their longtime friend and colleague. "Tom's invaluable contributions to NED began long before he joined the Board," said

Gershman. "From the beginning, he has been a truly devoted supporter of NED's mission, staff, and grantees—we could not be more grateful for his years of service, support, and friendship."

Donahue, who served as the longtime Secretary-Treasurer of the AFL-CIO, and briefly as its president in 1995, played an important role in the founding of the National Endowment for Democracy. Working closely with the late Lane Kirkland, Donahue marshaled the strengths of the American labor movement to support NED's early efforts to promote democracy abroad. Most notably, this included the provision of material, financial, and moral support to

the Polish trade union movement Solidarity through the Free Trade Union Institute, known today as the Solidarity Center. That relationship was commemorated in 1999, on the 10th anniversary of the Polish Round-table accord, when NED made its first presentation of the Democracy Service Medal to former Polish President and Solidarity leader Lech Walesa and the AFL-CIO's Lane Kirkland.

Donahue joined the NED Board of Directors in 1997 and was elected vice chairman in 2002. He has chaired the Endowment's Budget and Audit Committee, on which he remains a member.

The Board of Directors of the National Endowment for Democracy 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.

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



NED presented Tom Donahue with its Democracy Service Medal. From left to right: Carl Gershman, Senator Paul Sarbanes, Esther Coopersmth, Tom Donahue, Richard Gephardt.