



TAIWAN FOUNDATION  
for DEMOCRACY

財團法人臺灣民主基金會

新聞稿

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## 阿富汗籍西瑪·薩瑪爾醫師榮獲

### 臺灣民主基金會 2008 年亞洲民主人權獎

【本會台北訊】財團法人臺灣民主基金會董事長王金平今天召開記者會宣布，「2008年亞洲民主人權獎」將頒發給阿富汗獨立人權委員會主席暨書哈達組織（Shuhada Organization）創辦人西瑪·薩瑪爾（Sima Samar）醫師，以表揚她數十年來對阿富汗人權以及女性權益所做出的貢獻。薩瑪爾將於十二月十日國際人權日當天，親自來台領取獎座與十萬美元獎金。

薩瑪爾是阿富汗哈札拉（Hazara）少數民族的第一位女醫師，她1984年逃至巴基斯坦流亡十七年，1989年創立書哈達組織，提供阿富汗女性及兒童醫療照護及受教育的機會，2002年起擔任阿富汗人權委員會主席迄今，致力於建立阿富汗的基礎人權制度與保障。

王金平表示，薩瑪爾是經由嚴格的二階段審查程序，從來自十八個國家的三十組候選人中脫穎而出。王董事長強調，薩瑪爾多年來冒著極大的生命危險、克服重重障礙，毫無所懼的為阿富汗的自由與民主奮鬥與奉獻，相當令人敬佩。他說，薩瑪爾獲得「亞洲民主人權獎」以及其他多項國際獎項，對薩瑪爾不僅是國際社會的肯定，更是無形中保障她人身安全的一大助力。

王金平指出，臺灣民主基金會自2006年起辦理「亞洲民主人權獎」至今已第三屆，其中第二屆與第三屆連續兩屆都頒發給女性，可謂深具意義。去年（2007年）的得主是在泰緬邊境創辦「梅道診所」的緬甸籍女性醫師辛西雅·蒙格。

參與本屆亞洲民主人權獎初審評選作業的中山大學政治系教授廖達琪表示，阿富汗的醫療及教育資源皆相當匱乏，女性平均壽命僅四十三歲，女性文盲比例高達百分之九十六，塔利班執政時期，女性更是被全面性的壓迫。薩瑪爾始終在如此艱苦的環境中為女性權益付出努力，甚至面對聯合國等國際組織的代表，都要費力主張阿富汗女性及小孩應有的基本人

權保障，強調阿富汗女性受到的待遇不能被視為傳統文化習俗，而是根本的人權問題。

臺灣民主基金會 設置的「亞洲民主人權獎」，自 2006 年以來，每年獎勵長期在亞洲地區以和平方式積極促進民主發展，或提倡人權保護的個人或團體。今年決審階段的國際審查 委員包括南非開普敦轉型正義國際中心主席波瑞 (Alex Boraine)、巴基斯坦人權委員會主席暨聯合國宗教信仰自由特派公使嘉翰戈爾 (Asma Jahangir)、京都人權研究中心執行長暨前聯合國人權事務委員會主席安藤 (Nisuke Ando)、前秘魯總統托雷多 (Alejandro Toledo)，以及梅道診所創辦人暨 2007 年亞洲民主人權獎得主蒙格 (Cynthia Maung)。

薩瑪爾所領導的書哈達組織是阿富汗經營最久的非政府組織，同時也是該國由女性領導的最大非政府組織，宗旨是提供阿富汗女性及兒童醫療照護及受教育的機會，目前在阿富汗及巴基斯坦經營 12 個診所及 4 家醫院，在阿富汗設有 71 所學校、在巴基斯坦有 3 所收容阿富汗難民的學校，兩邊學生人數達 48,000 人。

薩瑪爾曾獲多項國際獎項，其中包含 1994 年有亞洲諾貝爾和平獎之稱的「麥格塞塞獎」、2001 年加拿大「權利與民主基金會」的「約翰·漢甫輝自由獎」、以及 2004 年「女性主義多數基金會」的「羅斯福夫人獎」。



照片說明：臺灣民主基金會王金平董事長（中）召開記者會宣布阿富汗籍的西瑪·薩瑪爾醫師為 2008 年亞洲民主人權獎得主。圖右為臺灣民主基金會林文程執行長，圖左為中山大學廖達琪教授。

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財法臺灣民主基金會  
團人

**PRESS RELEASE**

**Dr. Sima Samar wins Taiwan Foundation for Democracy's  
2008 Asia Democracy and Human Rights Award**

TAIPEI, 10 November 2008 – Taiwan Foundation for Democracy (TFD) Chairman Wang Jin-pyng announced today that Dr. Sima Samar, Chairperson of the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission and founder of the Shuhada Organization, has been selected as the winner of the 2008 Asia Democracy and Human Rights Award (ADHRA). Samar is recognized for her contributions to advancing human rights and especially women's rights and welfare in Afghanistan. She will formally receive the Award sculpture and a grant of US\$100,000 at a ceremony in Taipei on December 10th, International Human Rights Day.

Samar was the first Hazara woman to earn a medical degree from Kabul University. She fled to Pakistan in 1984 and remained in exile for 17 years, during which time she founded the Shuhada Organization in 1989 to provide medical care and educational opportunities to Afghan women and children. Since 2002, she has served as the Chairperson of the newly established Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission, laying the institutional groundwork for human rights protections in Afghanistan.

"Dr. Samar has devoted her life to fighting for freedom and democracy in Afghanistan, putting her life in immense risk and overcoming numerous obstacles," said Chairman Wang, noting that the ADHRA and other awards which Samar has received not only represent international recognition of her contributions, but also help protect her personal safety in Afghanistan.

Samar was chosen from a pool of 30 candidates representing 18 countries, after a rigorous two-stage review process. Chairman Wang pointed out that since the ADHRA was established in 2006, it is especially noteworthy that the second and third annual Awards were both awarded to women. Last year's (2007) ADHRA was presented to Burmese doctor Cynthia Maung, founder of the Mae Tao Clinic on the Thai-Burmese border.

Liao Dachi, member of the ADHRA preliminary review board and professor of political science at National Sun Yat-Sen University, commented on the harsh environment in which Samar has worked for Afghan women's rights and welfare. Afghanistan faces a dire lack of medical and educational resources, and women lived under severe oppression during the Taliban's rule. Even today, life expectancy for women is only 43 years, and rates of adult female illiteracy remain extremely high. Samar has had to argue before international organizations such as the United Nations that mistreatment of Afghan women and children should be judged according to basic human rights principles, rather than characterized as traditional cultural practices, said Liao.

The Taiwan Foundation for Democracy established the annual Asia Democracy and Human Rights Award in 2006 to support individuals and organizations that have actively promoted democratic development or advocated human rights through peaceful means in Asia. International members of the 2008 ADHRA final review board included: Dr. Nisuke Ando, former Chairman of the UN Human Rights Committee and Director of the Kyoto Human Rights Institute; Dr. Alex Boraine, Chairperson of the International Center for Transitional Justice and former Deputy Chair of the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission; Ms. Asma Jahangir, Chairperson of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan and UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief; Mr. Alejandro Toledo, former President of Peru; and Dr. Cynthia Maung, founder of the Mae Tao Clinic and winner of the 2007 ADHRA.

The Shuhada Organization aims to provide Afghan women and children with medical care and educational opportunities. It is the oldest Afghan non-governmental organization and the largest woman-led NGO in the region. Under Samar's leadership, Shuhada now operates 12 clinics and 4 hospitals in Afghanistan and Pakistan, as well as 71 schools in Afghanistan and 3 schools for Afghan refugees in Quetta, Pakistan, educating over 48,000 girls and boys.

Samar is the recipient of numerous international awards, including the 1994 Community Leadership Award from the Ramon Magsaysay Foundation in the Philippines, the 2001 John Humphrey Freedom Award from Rights and Democracy in Canada, and the 2004 Eleanor Roosevelt Award from the Feminist Majority Foundation in the United States.



In this photo: TFD Chairman Wang Jin-pyng (center) announces that Dr. Sima Samar of Afghanistan is the winner of the 2008 Asia Democracy and Human Rights Award. TFD President Lin Wen-cheng (right) and Professor Liao Dachi (left) also spoke at the press conference.

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