



Nobel Peace Laureates Shirin Ebadi and Jody Williams join women to demand constructive US-Iran dialogue and engagement. Washington, D.C.

FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY IN BURMA

During 2007, the Nobel Women's Initiative Laureates participated in a series of actions to draw attention to the situation of sister Laureate **AUNG SAN SUU KYI** and the people of Burma. Some of NWI's key activities included:

In January, NWI organized 13 Nobel Peace Laureates worldwide – from Seoul to Washington, DC to apply for visas to visit **AUNG SAN SUU KYI** in Burma. Not a single Laureate was granted a visa to visit the detained leader.

In August, Burma's long-standing nonviolent resistance movement seized an opportunity to mobilize and organized the largest civil society demonstrations in over a decade, called the *Saffron Revolution*, a reference to the saffron-colored robes associated with Buddhist monks. Burma's military regime responded with a brutal crackdown against its citizens. The NWI response included:

- * Nobel Laureate **WANGARI MAATHAI** hand-delivered a statement from the NWI Laureates to UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon, urging the Security Council (and China in particular) to take action to address the regime's violent tactics.
- * **JODY WILLIAMS** delivered a statement to the UN Human Rights Council, on behalf of NWI, calling for immediate and meaningful action to protect the human rights of the people of Burma.
- * On October 24, the 62nd anniversary of the UN, **AUNG SAN SUU KYI** had spent a total of 12 years in detention. The NWI Laureates prepared an open letter, published in the UK Guardian, calling for the UN to live up to its mandate and call the Burmese regime to account.
- * In late 2007, **JODY WILLIAMS** met with Canadian parliamentarians, senators and other officials to encourage Canada to use the leverage of the upcoming Olympic games to press China to exert its known influence with Burmese authorities to resolve the crisis in that country.

These actions by the Laureates were complemented by a number of NWI website *Action Alerts* throughout the year, encouraging the public to contact the UN and China, and to support action campaigns monitoring Burma. ■



Nobel Peace Laureates Jody Williams and Shirin Ebadi call for the release of sister Laureate Daw Aung San Suu Kyi outside the Burmese Embassy in Washington D.C. Photo by Mary Kate McKenna.

WOMEN, POWER AND PEACE

From 14–16 September, **OMEGA INSTITUTE** and **V-DAY**, in collaboration with **NWI**, co-hosted the *Women, Power and Peace* conference in Rhinebeck, New York. The event featured renowned women activists, including three **NWI Laureates** — **BETTY WILLIAMS**, **RIGOBERTA MENCHÚ TUM** and **JODY WILLIAMS** – and several courageous women from active conflict regions.

In all, more than 600 women came together to explore the connection between women and peace, the kind of power that facilitates peace, and how to work together to bring about just and sustainable peace. ■

“I believe we have to be as dedicated to the cause of peace as any army would be to the cause of war.”

BETTY WILLIAMS
speaking at
Women, Power and Peace



V-Day founder Eve Ensler with Nobel Peace Laureate Rigoberta Menchú Tum at Women, Power & Peace 2007. Omega Institute. Photo by Lisa Levart.



Nobel Peace Laureate Betty Williams with Malalai Joya of Afghanistan, at Women, Power & Peace 2007. Omega Institute. Photo by Lisa Levart.

WOMEN BUILDING ANOTHER WORLD 2007 World Social Forum

In January, the Nobel Women's Initiative Laureates **JODY WILLIAMS** and **SHIRIN EBADI** joined **WANGARI MAATHAI** in her home country of Kenya to participate in the *2007 World Social Forum*, which brought more than 50,000 international activists to Nairobi.

The Nobel Women's Initiative and Maathai's **GREEN BELT MOVEMENT** hosted *Women Building Another World*, where the Laureates spoke to several hundred women about the importance of individual women taking collective global action. ■



Nobel Peace Laureate Jody Williams at a Green Belt Movement tree planting ceremony during the 2007 World Social Forum. Nairobi, Kenya.