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NOBEL PEACE PRIZE TO NARGES MOHAMMADI: A SALUTE TO RESILIENCE, A CALL TO ACTION

WASHINGTON, D.C – The Center for International Policy (CIP) applauds the decision to award Narges Mohammadi the Nobel Peace Prize. This symbolic recognition brings to light the courageous efforts of women activists laboring under authoritarian regimes, in the Middle East and elsewhere, often at a grave personal cost.

Dr. Nancy Okail, President and CEO of CIP, reflects on the news:

“It's heartening to witness the international acknowledgment of Narges Mohammadi's formidable activism. Mohammadi is uniquely courageous in her fight for freedom, and at the same time, her story reflects an all-too-common strategy of authoritarianism. Like Mohammadi, I too was separated from my twin children for nine years when sentenced to prison and forced into exile due to my pursuit of justice in Egypt, albeit under significantly more fortunate circumstances and the ability to visit with them. These experiences – and those of too many others- underscore the dire straits for human rights in countries like Iran, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and other oppressive regimes in the Middle East. Pain and hopelessness are tools of oppressors to keep down the oppressed. Yet one need not live in the Middle East to understand the gut-wrenching injustice of being forcibly separated from one's family – let alone to endure that nightmare for no reason other than as punishment for defending one's basic rights.

The Prize, while significant, is far from sufficient. The international community must move beyond mere acknowledgments and mobilize actionable support for human rights. International leaders must call for the immediate release of Mohammadi and act more broadly to hold authoritarian regimes accountable for their atrocities and oppression. This Nobel Peace Prize should not only symbolize global recognition but also a call for empowering those who are struggling for their rights under repressive regimes that should be held accountable. As a matter of principle and of global stability, we all have an interest in standing up for Narges Mohammadi and all those fighting for human rights.”

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