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PRESS RELEASE

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MADELEINE K. ALBRIGHT GRANT AWARDED TO BOSNIAN WOMEN'S GROUP
CNN's Christiane Amanpour will give keynote address at May 1 event

WASHINGTON, DC – The National Democratic Institute (NDI) is pleased to award its 2006 Madeleine K. Albright Grant to the **Mostar Women's Citizen Initiative of Bosnia-Herzegovina**. The \$25,000 award will be presented at a luncheon ceremony on May 1 in Washington DC.

The Mostar Women's Citizen Initiative is using the political process to bridge the city's sharp cultural and ethnic divide and solve pressing community-wide problems. It draws together women—political activists, civic leaders and ordinary citizens—to address common issues without regard for the ethnic affiliation of its members or those it assists.

These women's cooperative efforts are among the few examples of multiethnic political cooperation in a country and city fractured by seemingly insurmountable ethnic divides. They exemplify a larger message that citizens can put aside harmful differences and choose the political process to build better lives for themselves and their community.

The Madeleine K. Albright Grant will allow the Initiative to strengthen its organizational capacity and expand its efforts to promote public participation in the policymaking process.

A short film, *The Bridge Builders*, shot just weeks ago in Bosnia, profiles the inspirational story of these women and will be premiered at the lunch.

“Ten years after the Dayton Accords, I am very pleased that NDI is giving this award to a group of women who are healing their nation's wounds and trying to make their community a better place to live,” said NDI Chairman **Madeleine K. Albright**, who served as U.S. Secretary of State during the Balkan conflict, and will present the award.

CNN's Chief International Correspondent **Christiane Amanpour**, who won numerous awards including a News and Documentary Emmy for her coverage of the conflict, will deliver the keynote address.

“In a town named after a bridge, it is fitting that Mostar is the scene where these remarkable women are bridging their differences to make the city whole again. Ten years ago, witnessing the horror of this war, I would not have thought this possible. I am very pleased to join in honoring these extraordinary women,” says Amanpour.

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MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA ARE INVITED TO COVER THE EVENT

WHERE: Mayflower Hotel, 1127 Connecticut Avenue NW, Washington DC 20036

WHEN: Monday May 1, 2006

TIME: 12:30 PM (camera set up by noon)

Please call (202) 728-5527 to RSVP.

As part of its commitment to promoting the equitable participation of women in politics and government, NDI has established the Madeleine K. Albright Grant as a means of supporting organizations around the world that create greater roles for women in political and civil life.

Last year the Grant was awarded to the Indonesian Women's Political Caucus (KPPI), which helps Indonesian women run for political office and provides leadership skills for those already in government. KPPI includes women from a broad cross-section of political parties and has successfully lobbied for an amendment to Indonesia's constitution recommending that 30 percent of political party candidates be women.

The Madeleine K. Albright grant is part of a larger effort launched in 2003 called the *Win With Women Global Initiative*, which promotes the participation of women in politics around the world. Political leaders from more than 85 countries have become part of this initiative.

For more than two decades, NDI has helped people around the world build more democratic societies. Responding to requests for assistance, NDI's international network of experts and practitioners provide people with tools to strengthen political and civic organizations, safeguard elections, and promote citizen participation, openness and accountability in government.

For more information about NDI, the Madeleine K. Albright Award and Win with Women, visit the NDI website at www.ndi.org.