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**ARCHBISHOP DESMOND TUTU, WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF BURMA TO BE  
HONORED AT NDI LUNCHEON DEC. 15**

WASHINGTON, DC - Former Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright, chairman of the National Democratic Institute (NDI), will host the Institute's Democracy Awards event honoring Archbishop Desmond Tutu and the Women's League of Burma (WLB) on Monday, Dec. 15. NDI's awards luncheon will be held from 12-2 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill. Christiane Amanpour, CNN chief international correspondent, will serve as master of ceremonies.

Archbishop Tutu will receive the 18th W. Averell Harriman Democracy Award for his work in behalf of democracy and human rights, which includes efforts to support his fellow Nobel Peace Laureate, Aung San Suu Kyi of Burma. The Women's League of Burma, an umbrella organization of 12 women's groups from different ethnic backgrounds, will receive the 4th annual Madeleine K. Albright Grant.

A Nobel Peace Prize winner for his leadership in overcoming apartheid in South Africa, Archbishop Tutu is being honored for his global efforts on behalf of democracy since the democratic transition in South Africa. This includes his advocacy for democracy in Burma and the release of Aung San Suu Kyi, the world's only imprisoned Nobel Laureate and the leader of Burma's democracy struggle.

Thin Thin Aung, coordinator of the Women's League's political empowerment program, will accept the award on behalf of the WLB. Aung, a founding member of the group, has lived in exile in India since the 1988 democracy uprising in Burma and has worked for the restoration of democracy and human rights in Burma ever since. Through the political empowerment program, she seeks to educate young women leaders on issues such as gender equality, constitutional law and international lobbying for those causes.

The Women's League will use the \$25,000 Albright grant to allow young women from Burma currently enrolled in the political empowerment program to return to their ethnic communities within Burma and along border areas. The women will conduct two-week training sessions for other emerging women leaders that will address such key concerns as health, human trafficking, political engagement and local leadership.

*The National Democratic Institute is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization working to support and strengthen democratic institutions worldwide by promoting citizen participation, openness and accountability in government. More information is available at [www.ndi.org](http://www.ndi.org).*

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