

NONVIOLENCE



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P.O. Box 39127
Friendship Station, NW
Washington, DC 20016
USA

Press Release

Contact: Matthew Chandler
Phone: +1-202-244-0951

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MARY KING RECEIVES 2009 EL-HIBRI PEACE EDUCATION PRIZE Jimmy Carter Congratulates his Friend and Colleague

WASHINGTON, DC: At a packed event at the El-Hibri Charitable Foundation, Dr. Mary King received the 2009 El-Hibri Peace Education Prize. The annual prize, a joint effort between Nonviolence International and the El-Hibri family, awarded \$10,000 to Dr. King for nearly four decades of outstanding leadership in the field of Peace Education and the practice of nonviolent action. The award presentation ceremony highlighted King's valuable contributions to peace education and social justice in the Middle East.

Former President Jimmy Carter issued a statement congratulating King on receiving the Prize, citing her "enormous contributions to peace education, and particularly her devotion to peace" in the Middle East. Carter added that he and his wife were, "proud to be among the many whose lives were touched by her friendship and generous spirit." He concluded that King is a "great asset to the global community and most deserving of the honor" of receiving the Peace Education Prize.

In her acceptance speech, Dr. King spoke of the growing prominence of the field of Peace Education and the positive action it generates. "No one that I meet in this field anywhere in the world solely wants to *study* peace," she said. "Everyone is both practitioner and scholar. Peace studies not only dares to ask how we can build more peaceable societies, it seeks to alter the 'real

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world.”” In addressing the Middle East, King stressed the importance of building civil society as a prerequisite for peace, and the need to tell the truth, especially about Israel and Palestine, a central area of her research. “It is a lie to polarize people into ‘pro-Israeli’ or ‘pro-Palestinian.’ This is nonsense. We must all be thinking about changing the future,” she said.

Dr. Mubarak Awad, Chairperson of the Prize Organizing Committee, said of King, “Her devotion to adult education has changed the lives of thousands of Americans.”

The first laureate of the Prize in 2007, Professor Abdul Aziz Said of American University, commented, “Fuad and Nancy El-Hibri’s grace and generosity removes barriers and builds bridges for peacemakers.” He also emphasized the importance of peace education in the Middle East especially, adding, “Peace Education is a never ending journey. We are all connected. It is our connection to one another that opens us to thought, words and deeds guided by love.”

Mr. Fuad El-Hibri, the founder of the El-Hibri Peace Education Prize, noted that he and the El-Hibri Charitable Foundation will continue to support the prize and its growth each year in an effort to highlight the importance of peace education and to support people who are working for a just, peaceful and healthy planet.

The El-Hibri Charitable Foundation is located in downtown Washington, DC, a few blocks away from the White House. For more information on this event, including photos and video footage (forthcoming), visit www.elhibriprize.org.

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