

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

525 Arch Street | Independence Mall
Philadelphia | PA 19106 | T 215 409 6600 | F 215 409 6650
www.constitutioncenter.org

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CONTACTS: Ashley Berke
Senior Public Relations Manager
215.409.6693
aberke@constitutioncenter.org

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER TO HOST DISCUSSION ABOUT PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS IN IRAN AND AFGHANISTAN

Philadelphia, PA (August 31, 2009) – Elections in Iran in June caught the world's attention, and this month, Afghanistan's second presidential elections since the Taliban era are serving as a window into the country's prospects as an emerging democracy. National Constitution Center Visiting Scholar **Barnett Rubin** and **Michael Singh**, former senior director for the Middle East at the National Security Council, will join the Center on Monday, September 21, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. to address the international impact of these elections, the political dynamics in Iran and Afghanistan, and the role the United States can expect to play in these countries over the next five years. **Trudy Rubin** of the *Philadelphia Inquirer* will moderate. Admission is free, but reservations are required and can be made by calling 215.409.6700.

Barnett R. Rubin is Director of Studies and Senior Fellow at the Center on International Cooperation of New York University, where he directs the program on the Reconstruction of Afghanistan. He has worked at CIC since July 2000. From 1994-2000, he was Director of the Center for Preventive Action and Director, Peace and Conflict Studies, at the Council on Foreign Relations. In November and December of 2001, he served as special advisor to the UN Special Representative of the Secretary General for Afghanistan, Lakhdar Brahimi, during the negotiations that produced the Bonn Agreement. He also advised the United Nations on the drafting of the constitution of Afghanistan, the Afghanistan Compact, and the Afghanistan National Development Strategy. Rubin has written numerous articles and books, including *The Fragmentation of Afghanistan* and *Blood on the Doorstep*.

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ADD ONE/INTERNATIONAL ELECTIONS

Michael Singh is the Ira Weiner fellow at The Washington Institute and former senior director for the Middle East at the National Security Council. At the White House, Singh was responsible for devising and implementing strategies on a wide range of Middle East issues, from the Arab-Israeli peace process, to supporting Lebanon's Cedar Revolution, to the efforts to prevent Iran's acquisition of nuclear weapons capability. Prior to working at the White House, Singh served as special assistant to Secretaries of State Condoleezza Rice and Colin Powell, and as an aide to the U.S. ambassador at the American Embassy in Tel Aviv.

Trudy Rubin's "Worldview" column runs in the *Philadelphia Inquirer* on Wednesdays and Sundays, and appears in many other U.S. papers. In the past six years, she has visited Iraq ten times and has also written from Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Israel, the West Bank, Gaza, Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Turkey, China, and South Korea. She is the author of *Willful Blindness: The Bush Administration and Iraq*, a book of her columns from 2002-2004. In 2001, she was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in commentary, and in 2008, she was awarded the Edward Weintal prize for international reporting.

The National Constitution Center, located at 525 Arch St. on Philadelphia's Independence Mall, is an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing public understanding of the U.S. Constitution and the ideas and values it represents. The Center serves as a museum, an education center, and a forum for debate on constitutional issues. The museum dramatically tells the story of the Constitution from Revolutionary times to the present through more than 100 interactive, multimedia exhibits, film, photographs, text, sculpture and artifacts, and features a powerful, award-winning theatrical performance, "Freedom Rising". The Center also houses the Annenberg Center for Education and Outreach, which serves as the hub for national constitutional education. Also, as a nonpartisan forum for constitutional discourse, the Center presents – without endorsement – programs that contain diverse viewpoints on a broad range of issues. For more information, call 215.409.6700 or visit www.constitutioncenter.org.

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