

Grants To Support Democratization Training for Iraqi Women

Statement by Secretary Colin L. Powell

Washington, DC

September 27, 2004

I am pleased to announce that, as part of the Department of State's Iraqi Women's Democracy Initiative, we are awarding \$10 million in grants to several U.S.-based non-governmental organizations to train Iraqi women in the skills and practices of democratic public life.

The organizations that will receive the funds are: Art of Living Foundation, Independent Women's Forum, the International Republican Institute, Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies, Kurdish Human Rights Watch, Meridian International Center, and the National Democratic Institute. Each organization will work with Iraqi partners on the ground to prepare women to compete in Iraq's January 2005 elections, encourage women to vote, train women in media and business skills, and establish resource centers for networking and counseling.

As President Bush has said, we cannot begin to tackle the challenges of the 21st century without the full participation of women in all aspects of life and in all regions of the world. These grants will directly help Iraqi women deepen their involvement in Iraq's reconstruction, and mobilize women across the land to build a secure, prosperous and democratic Iraq.

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