



An evening at the theatre: join us in a celebration of

International Democracy Day

14 September 2009 STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN

On the occasion of **International Day of Democracy 2009**, we have the pleasure of inviting you to the official launch of this year's celebrations. The evening will commence at 19.00 with a reading of the play **Seven** followed by a reception, all at c/o Stockholms stadsteater (Drottninggatan 34) on 14 September.

In 2007, the UN General Assembly officially adopted 15 September as the International Day of Democracy. Building on last year's programme the Swedish National Touring Theatre, International IDEA and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Nordic Office have decided to mark this year's celebrations through the organization of a performance of **SEVEN**, a play that portrays seven women leaders and women's rights activists in Afghanistan, Cambodia, Guatemala, Nigeria, Northern Ireland, Pakistan and Russia who overcome insurmountable odds in their struggle for freedom and justice.

Inez McCormack of Northern Ireland, one of the women represented in **SEVEN**, and Carol K. Mack, one of seven playwrights and initiator of the project, will discuss the creation **SEVEN** as part of the presentation.

The play will be presented in English.

Please RSVP with your name and number of tickets (maximum 2 per person) to events@idea.int by 11 September. Please remember that seats are limited!

We look forward to receiving your positive response and to see you at both the play and the VIP reception at c/o Stockholms stadsteater.

Vidar Helgesen
Secretary-General IDEA

Birgitta Englin
Head, Riksteatern

Jakob Simonsen
Director, UNDP Nordic Office

International Day of Democracy 14 September 2009 www.democracyday.net



Agenda 14 September 2009



- 18.45 Doors open**
Music by Vinnie Kearns
- 19.00 Official launch of International Day of Democracy 2009**
Mr. Vidar Helgesen, Secretary-General, International IDEA
Mr. Bjørn Førde, Director, UNDP Oslo Governance Centre
Ms. Birgitta Englin, Head of Riksteatern - Introduction of the documentary/play SEVEN
- 19:15 – 20:45 Play reading Seven (in English)**
Followed by a brief interview with Inez McCormack, one of the women represented in SEVEN, and Carol K. Mack, one of seven playwrights and initiator of the project.
Interviewer: Mikael Olsson, journalist, presenter and producer for Konflikt at Swedish Radio.
- 20:45 – 23:00 VIP reception**

To RSVP, e-mail: events@idea.int For more information: www.democracyday.net

SEVEN WOMEN *Brief description of the women portrayed in the play*



Farida Azizi, Afghanistan

Farida Azizi became an activist fighting the marginalization of women under Taliban rule in her native country. Because of threats on her life, she has gained asylum and now lives in the United States with her two children and works on women's rights and peace-building in Afghanistan.



Mu Sochua, Cambodia

Mu Sochua is the former Minister of Women's Affairs in Cambodia (one of only two women in the cabinet), she was co-nominated in 2005 for the Nobel Peace Prize for her work against sex trafficking of women in Cambodia and neighbouring Thailand. MP Mu Sochua, after door-to-door visits to 482 villages, won a seat in Parliament in July, 2008.



Annabella de Leon, Guatemala

Annabella raised herself and her family out poverty by getting an education. She has been a congresswoman since 1995 has received death threats because of her fight against corruption and for the rights of the poor, particularly women and indigenous peoples.



Hafsat Abiola, Nigeria

Hafsat Abiola, Nigeria, an advocate for human rights and democracy following the murder of her activist parents, founded the Kudirat Initiative for Democracy, which provides skills-training and leadership opportunities for young women across Nigeria. She now helps build bridges between African and Chinese women, as China increases its engagement in the African continent.



Inez McCormack, Nordirland

Inez McCormack is an activist for women's and human rights, labour, and social justice and a former President of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions. Ms. McCormack played a critical role in the 1998 Good Friday Peace Accords and continues to advocate for equal rights and fair labour practices for women and minorities. She now chairs a program, the Participation and Practice of Rights Project, that helps the disadvantaged access resources and services in Ireland, both North and South. Ms. McCormack currently serves as chair of the Participation and the Practice of Rights Project (PPR) and in 2008 received the prestigious Irish Tatler Woman of the Year Award.



Mukhtar Mai, Pakistan

Mukhtar Mai was gang raped by four men and forced to walk home almost naked in retribution for an alleged "honour crime," Ms. Mai and her harrowing story grabbed headlines across the world. Instead of taking the traditional "women's" route of committing suicide, she brought her rapists to justice, built schools to improve the condition of women, and became an advocate for education in her country.



Marina Pisklakova-Parker, Ryssland

Against tremendous odds in 1993, Marina Pisklakova-Parker founded the first hotline for victims of domestic violence, which has since grown into Center ANNA, part of a coalition that has provided crisis and counselling services for 100,000 Russian women.