

Foreign Policy Blogs Network:

- [Afghanistan](#)
- [Africa](#)
- [America in Transition](#)
- [Arms Control and Proliferation](#)
- [Bangladesh](#)
- [Brazil](#)
- [Caucasus](#)
- [Central Asia](#)
- [Children](#)
- [China](#)
- [Climate Change](#)
- [Corruption and Accountability](#)
- [Cuba](#)
- [Current Conflicts](#)
- [Cybersecurity and Internet Communications](#)
- [East Asia](#)
- [Energy](#)
- [European Union](#)
- [Foreign Policy Association](#)
- [Foreign Policy Blogs](#)
- [Global Currents](#)
- [Global Engagement](#)
- [Global Film Review](#)
- [Global Food Security](#)
- [Global Health](#)
- [Global Markets](#)
- [Global Posts](#)
- [Human Rights](#)
- [India](#)
- [Iran](#)
- [Iraq](#)
- [Israel](#)
- [Latin America](#)
- [Law and Security Strategy](#)
- [Lebanon](#)
- [Media and Foreign Policy](#)
- [Mexico](#)
- [Middle East](#)
- [Middle East Media](#)
- [Migration](#)
- [Music and Global Affairs](#)
- [Pakistan](#)
- [Philanthropy](#)
- [Private Military Contractors](#)
- [Public Diplomacy](#)
- [Religion and Politics](#)
- [Rising Powers](#)
- [Russia](#)
- [Southeast Asia](#)

- [Terrorism](#)
- [The Arctic](#)
- [Transatlantic Media](#)
- [Transitional States](#)
- [U.S. Defense](#)
- [U.S. Diplomacy](#)
- [U.S. Role in the World](#)
- [Venezuela](#)
- [War Crimes](#)
- [Women and Foreign Policy](#)



[Iran](#)

The World Affairs Blog Network

[FPB Home](#)

[About](#)

[Bloggers](#)

[Resources](#)

And the Winner is...

By [Sahar Zubairy](#)

Tuesday, April 13 8:28 am EST

The 2010 Milton Friedman Prize for Advancing Liberty goes to.....**Akbar Ganji!**



(Photo taken from Cato Institute)

Ganji is a well-known Iranian writer and journalist. He spent 6 years in an Iranian prison for being a vocal supporter of secular democracy in Iran and exposing government involvement in the assassination of individuals opposed to Iran's theocratic regime. His first book in English, [*The Road to Democracy in Iran*](#), was published in April 2008.

This is what the [Cato Institute](#) had to say about this extraordinary man:

*Ganji may be best known for a 1999 series of articles investigating the Chain Murders of Iran, which left five dissident intellectuals dead. Later published in the book, *The Dungeon of Ghosts*, his articles tied the killings to senior clerics and other officials in the Iran government, including former President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani.*

*The *Dungeon of Ghosts* became a national bestseller and is believed to have helped bring about electoral defeats for conservative candidates in the parliamentary elections of 2000. Upon returning from a conference in Berlin shortly after the elections, Ganji was arrested for spreading propaganda against the Islamic system and "damaging national security." He was eventually sentenced to six years in prison, much of it spent in solitary confinement.*

"Akbar Ganji endured immense suffering fighting for the cause of liberty in Iran," said Edward H. Crane, president of the Cato Institute. "Considering what he went through, no one would have blamed him for giving up, but he continued to think and write about ways to make Iran a better place for his people, risking his personal freedom and safety with every word."

*Ganji was able to complete significant written work while in prison, including his *Republican Manifesto*, a six-chapter manual for a full-fledged democracy in Iran, which was smuggled out of his prison cell piece by piece and widely distributed. Included in his list of prerequisites for what he called a "developmentalist-democratic government" were the "presence of a free civil society, a relatively independent political society, effective enforcement of laws regarding all citizens, positive functioning of bureaucracy, a pluralist economy, regular and just elections, respecting human rights, independent press free from government control and an independent judiciary."*

He undertook a hunger strike during his last year in prison, which helped activate international human rights groups and Nobel Laureates to his cause, but got little attention in Iran due to heavy press censorship.

Ganji was released from prison in March of 2006 and left Iran shortly thereafter. Many countries around the world offered him honorary citizenship, and he traveled extensively, giving talks promoting democracy

in Iran and exposing major human rights abuses by the Iranian government. Despite his battle with Iran's theocracy, Ganji remains steadfastly opposed to military action by the United States in both Iran and Iraq, saying "you cannot bring democracy to a country by attacking it."

Leave Comments Below»

Username: *required

Email Address: *required

Homepage:

Comments: [Comment Rss](#) | [Trackback URI](#)

Anti-spam word: (Required)*

To prove you're a person (not a spam script), type the security word shown in the picture.

Jintao

« [Movie Review: The Glass House \(2008\)](#)



Recent Articles

- [And the Winner is...](#)
- [Movie Review: The Glass House \(2008\)](#)
- [Iran + Iraq = Friends](#)
- [A Unique Perspective Indeed](#)
- [A Joint Nuclear Program?](#)

Pages

- [Iran: the Not So "Evil" Side](#)
- [Researching Iran](#)

Categories

- [Iran's domestic politics](#)
 - [Human Rights](#)
 - [Women's Rights](#)
- [Iran's foreign policy](#)
 - [The United States](#)
 - [Iranian Nuclear Program](#)
 - [Arab countries](#)
 - [Security Council](#)
- [Social and Culture](#)
- [Uncategorized](#)

Links

- [Economist's Country Briefings: Iran](#)
- [Human Rights Watch: Iran](#)
- [Iran](#)
- [Iran's Revolutionary Guards](#)
- [Iranian Political System](#)

- [Strait of Hormuz](#)
- [Tehran Bureau](#)
- [The Library of Congress. Iran: A Country Study.](#)
- [The U.S. Department of State's Background Note: Iran](#)
- [The World Bank: Iran](#)



FPA U COURSE:

**How to Land a Job in
International
Development**

**April 27
New York City**

[Global Jobs](#)

- [Operations Manager, Trans-Sahara Security Symposium](#)
- [Media Affairs Intern](#)
- [Strategic Planning Internship](#)
- [Program Associate](#)
- [Senior Anticorruption and Good Governance Advisor](#)
- [Research Associate, Asia Studies](#)
- [Research Analyst](#)
- [Communication/Editorial Research Intern](#)
- [INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST, FAMINE EARLY WARNING SYSTEM NETWORK \(FEWS NET\),](#)
- [DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC ADVOCACY & CIVILIAN PROTECTION OUTREACH](#)
- [Proposal Coordinator](#)

 [Subscribe to the FPA Jobs Feed for instant updates](#)

Archives

- [April 2010](#)
- [March 2010](#)
- [February 2010](#)
- [January 2010](#)
- [December 2009](#)
- [November 2009](#)
- [October 2009](#)
- [September 2009](#)
- [August 2009](#)
- [July 2009](#)

©2010 [Iran](#)

[Log in](#)

Other FPA services: [FPA Home](#) | [Bookstore](#) | [Global Jobs](#) | [Events](#) | [Great Decisions](#)
[Contact us](#) | [Become a Blogger](#) | [Advertise](#)