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# IRANIAN OF THE DAY

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WHERE IS MY VOTE?

### Akbar Ganji

Awarded \$500,000 Milton Friedman Liberty Prize

Iranian Journalist Akbar Ganji Receives 2010 Mi...

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[cato.org](#): Akbar Ganji, an Iranian writer and journalist who spent 6 years in a Tehran prison for advocating a secular democracy and exposing government involvement in the assassination of individuals who opposed Iran's theocratic regime, has been named the 2010 winner of the Cato Institute's Milton Friedman Prize for Advancing Liberty.

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." >>>

from Ghormeh Sabzi 13-Apr-2010

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How people have quickly forgotten...



by AryamehrNYC on Wed Apr 14, 2010 05:45 AM PDT

...that this man has the blood of many Iranians on his hands from 1979 to when he somehow magically "fell out of favor" with the mullahs...

I guess Rudolph Hess would be considered a saint as well despite all of the German blood he had on his hands...

Once a thug always a thug no matter what uniform he tries to put on...

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Dear Shifteh, if you like Ganji that is fine but to suggest

by oktaby on Wed Apr 14, 2010 05:11 AM PDT

"he has done more for Iran..." is a rather strong statement. He has done what for Iran? there are hundreds of hunger strikers right now who barely get recognition he got and have fought immensely more than he ever could or would, and they have no support or prizes from highly suspect and questionable institutions or a massive PR behind them. Nor do they get a convenient pass to DC and payment for writing papers and speeches that belong to the early 18th century. As rest of 'former regime' agents and still islamists it is funny how they all end up in U.S. not in a moslem nation. His past is rather colorful and his future is quite bright with money he has got and continues to get, despite the misery in Iran. Who/what group/cause has he specifically helped?

Promoting another religious point of view and coloring it with 'quasi secular' concepts hardly qualifies him as anything but another opportunist with ambitions for which he is sleeping with anyone who will support and pay his way. I know you mean well but thousands of Iranian youth did not get beaten, raped and killed for anything he promotes.

OKtaby

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Shifteh Jan

by minadadvar on Wed Apr 14, 2010 04:47 AM PDT

I agree with you 100%. Ganji is a true Iranian hero/ human right activist. He is an inspiration. I wish him best of luck.

We need more people like him.

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What the hell is the CATO institute involved with Iran for?

by I Have a Crush on Alex Trebek on Wed Apr 14, 2010 03:52 AM PDT

They are a libertarian think tank. They have no business discussing Iran. How sad for them. They want to be another American Enterprise Institute? What's wrong? Defense contractors not sending enough checks?

Raytheon is probably excited about Iran on CATO's mind. There are billions to be made from a US regime intervention and war by Israel or US. Get ready!

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Can't fool us

by Ferfereh on Wed Apr 14, 2010 03:49 AM PDT

No matter how many prizes they give him, they still can't fool us. They wanna keep this regime but with little changes. They don't wanna a regime that is best for Iran and iranians, thus they winnow and find some to do the job, like Khomeini, Ganji, .... and make them heroes and give them prizes. This is not 1979 and nobody buys your heroes anymore.

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Table with 3 columns: Name, Title, Date. Includes entries like Mir Hossein Mousavi, Persian Brothers, Trita Parsi, Miss World Canada 2010, Hila Sedighi.



### Milton Friedman?

by [ghalam-doon](#) on Wed Apr 14, 2010 03:52 AM PDT

And did he accept it?

Just imagine giving this prize to someone who has even one iota of left leaning thinking. Do you think he would even consider for a moment to accept it, even though it's a cool half mil? Do you think if they had offered this prize to someone like Noam Chomsky, he wouldn't have died laughing?

It seems Mr. Ganji and most of these so-called leaders of the opposition in exile belong to the wind party.

By accepting this prize, Mr. Ganji endorses the right wing agenda of economists like Milton Friedman.

Milton Friedman was the brain behind the economic policies of Ronald Reagan, what was known as Reaganomics. He extolled the virtues of a free market economic system with little or no intervention by government.

Is this the vision that Mr. Ganji has for Iran? A pure and simple capitalist society with no intervention from the government?

Mr. Ganji has some explaining to do.

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### Congrats to Mr. Ganji !

by [Darius Kadivar](#) on Wed Apr 14, 2010 01:47 AM PDT

Good for Him !

**Below Articles Written During his Courageous Hunger Strike Predicament:**

[Prisoner of Conscience: Akbar Ganji and Costa Gavras' Confession](#) BY Darius KADIVAR (PersianMirror)

[Prisoners Of Conscience : Akbar Ganji A Hero Similar To Yves Montand Portrayal In Costa Gavras' Film The Confession](#) by DK (payvand)

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### Akbar Ganji

by [Shiftehs Ansari](#) on Wed Apr 14, 2010 01:16 AM PDT

Akbar Ganji has already done more for Iran than many people can do in their entire lifetime. He has paid with his dear life for the right to speak his mind. If from now until the day he dies he does nothing else, he is still miles ahead from all those who take the courage of the likes of him for granted.

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### آفرین به آقای گنجی.

پینم  
Wed Apr 14, 2010 01:09 AM PDT



پس از این همه مشقت که این مرد در زندان کشید، این جایزه کمکی هست برای پیشبرد اهداف آقای گنجی و افکارش. اهداف و افکاری که در پی آزادی اندیشه و آزادی بیان برای تمامی ایرانیان هست.

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### Hooray for neocons

by [robertborden54](#) on Tue Apr 13, 2010 08:02 PM PDT

Cato Institute? Milton Friedman? I guess they're cool as long as they're willing to give you half a mil.

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.....  
by [yolanda](#) on Tue Apr 13, 2010 04:38 PM PDT

Thank you for sharing and good for him and for democracy! I look forward to his acceptance speech and reactions from IRI!

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by Red Wine on Tue Apr 13, 2010 04:38 PM PDT

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