

The Initiative for Inclusive Security

A Program of Hunt Alternatives Fund

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The Initiative for Inclusive Security Congratulates Winners of Department of State Award for Improving Role of Women Around the Globe *Award Named for and Made Possible by Ambassador Swanee Hunt*

WASHINGTON, DC – **The Initiative for Inclusive Security**, a program of Hunt Alternatives Fund, congratulates May Qasem Barghouthi and Cherrie Daniels, the 2006 recipients of the *Swanee Hunt Award for Advancing the Role of Women in Policy Formulation*, given annually by the US Department of State. The awards were presented yesterday at an awards ceremony held at the Department of State by Under Secretary for Political Affairs R. Nicholas Burns.

“Cherrie and May are outstanding and talented individuals, each of whom is deserving of this award,” said **Ambassador Swanee Hunt, chair of The Initiative for Inclusive Security**. “Sustainable peace requires the full participation of women at all stages of the peace process—yet they have been largely excluded from formal efforts to develop and implement fresh, workable solutions to seemingly intractable struggles. May and Cherrie have been extraordinarily effective at convening women on both sides of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict to increase their participation and advance their proposed solutions. I feel honored to see my name next to theirs.”

Ms. Daniels is a Foreign Service Officer, formerly with the US Embassy in Israel, and currently working on the staff of Senator Joseph Lieberman. She was nominated by Richard Jones, US Ambassador to Israel. Ambassador Jones said, “As a result of Cherrie’s sustained efforts to keep women connected with each other and with top conflict resolution experts inside and outside the US government, a growing group of women leaders and activists is now refining and implementing a strategy for raising women’s voices for peace and advancing women’s roles in both formal and informal peace processes in the region.”

Ms. Barghouthi is a Foreign Service National who works in the US Consulate in Jerusalem and is a specialist on Palestinian women’s issues. She was nominated by the Consulate General, who said, “Her depth and breadth of contacts, experience in women’s enterprises, and commitment to women’s involvement in political work has been of great importance to the Consulate General’s outreach and policy work with Palestinian women. A natural diplomat, Ms. Barghouthi has also played an active role in promoting dialogue between Palestinian and Israeli activists.”

The Swanee Hunt Award recognizes outstanding achievement in the area of promoting women as participants in the political and economic processes or as policy shapers. The annual amount of the award is \$10,000, which will be given in two awards of \$5,000 each to a Foreign Service or Civil Service employee and to a Foreign Service National at a US embassy or consulate. *For more information about the award, please visit the following link, page six: <http://foia.state.gov/masterdocs/03fam/03m4830.pdf>.*

The Initiative for Inclusive Security, a program of Hunt Alternatives Fund, advocates for the full participation of all stakeholders, especially women, in peace processes. Creating sustainable peace is achieved best by a diverse, citizen-driven approach. Of the many sectors of society currently excluded from peace processes, none is larger—or more critical to success—than women. Since 1999, Inclusive Security has connected more than 450 women experts with over 3,000 policy shapers to collaborate on fresh, workable solutions to long-standing conflicts across the globe. For more information visit www.InclusiveSecurity.org.

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