

INTERNATIONAL  
**Herald Tribune**

## Black mayor of US city, Iraqi founder of women's group win JFK award

**The Associated Press**

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**BOSTON:** A black mayor from Ohio, and an Iraqi woman who founded a group that helps women in war-torn regions rebuild their lives received the annual John F. Kennedy New Frontier Awards on Wednesday.

Kennedy's daughter, Caroline Kennedy, presented the awards to Mayor Jay Williams and Zainab Salbi. The awards are given annually to two people whose contributions demonstrate the value of public service.

"Jay Williams and Zainab Salbi are remarkable young leaders who share my father's belief that one person can make a difference, and everyone should try," Kennedy said.

Salbi, a native of Iraq, founded Women for Women International in 1993. The group connects American women with women in war-torn regions around the world to offer financial and emotional support. The group also offers vocational and business skills training, as well as access to affordable microcredit loans. The organization has given \$39 million (€26.49 million) in aid and microcredit loans to 120,000 women.

Salbi, 38, came to the United States at age 19. She has written about the use of rape and other forms of violence against woman during war.

Williams, 36, became the youngest and the first black mayor in Youngstown, Ohio, when he left a banking career and won election in November 2005. Williams ran on a platform that called on the city to acknowledge its shrinking population and poor economic health and to improve, not by growing, but by shrinking.

One of his first acts as mayor was to funnel surplus funds toward demolition in the city. He also has increased economic development programs and worked to reduce crime with a zero-tolerance policy toward offenders.



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