



WALTER H. CAPPS CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF  
ETHICS, RELIGION, AND PUBLIC LIFE

For immediate release:  
September 1, 2011

Contact: Dr. Leonard Wallock, Associate Director  
Walter H. Capps Center for the Study  
of Ethics, Religion, and Public Life  
(805) 893-2317 / leonard.wallock@cappscenter.ucsb.edu

N E W S R E L E A S E

**Hamdani World Harmony Lecture Series Inaugural Event**

***Shirin Ebadi***

**The Role of Women in Promoting Peace  
and Democracy in the Middle East**

**Sunday, October 23 / 3:00 p.m. / Free  
UCSB Campbell Hall**

S U M M A R Y F A C T S

- Shirin Ebadi, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate and international human rights lawyer
- "The Role of Women in Promoting Peace and Democracy in the Middle East"
- Sunday, October 23 / 3:00 p.m. / Free
- UCSB Campbell Hall
- Copies of her memoir *The Golden Cage: Three Brothers, Three Choices, One Destiny* will be available for purchase and signing at this event
- Information: Walter H. Capps Center for the Study of Ethics, Religion, and Public Life at UCSB (805) 893-2317
- Digital copies of press materials available at <http://www.cappscenter.ucsb.edu/news/press-releases/>

**Speaker Profile:**

Shirin Ebadi, J.D. received the 2003 Nobel Peace Prize for promoting human rights, in particular, the rights of women, children, and political prisoners in Iran. She was the first Muslim woman to receive the Nobel Peace Prize and only the fifth Muslim to receive a Nobel Prize in any field. Dr. Ebadi was also one of the first female judges in Iran. She served as president of the city court of Tehran from 1975 to 1979, but was dismissed from her position after the Islamic Revolution in February 1979. After obtaining her lawyer's license in 1992, Dr. Ebadi entered private practice. She has taken on many controversial cases defending political dissidents and, as a result, has been arrested numerous times.

Dr. Ebadi has established or is closely affiliated with many non-governmental organizations including the Society for Protecting the Rights of the Child, the Defenders of Human Rights Center, the Nobel Women's Initiative, and the PeaceJam Foundation. She is also a university professor and often students from outside Iran take part in her human rights training courses. She has published over 70 articles and 13 books dedicated to various aspects of human rights, including *Refugee Rights in Iran* (2008) and *Iran Awakening: One Woman's Journey to Reclaim Her Life and Country* (2007) which has been translated into forty languages. Her memoir, *The Golden Cage: Three Brothers, Three Choices, One Destiny*, was released in April, 2011.

**Description of *The Golden Cage: Three Brothers, Three Choices, One Destiny*:**

For over fifty years the Shah Pahlavi dynasty ruled Iran until Ayatollah Khomeini's 1979 Islamic Revolution seized power and began its own reign of tyranny. The questions about the revolution shape Shirin Ebdadi's latest book, *The Golden Cage: Three Brothers, Three Choices, One Destiny*, while the answers shed light on Islamic Iran's current events and tell us why it strives for nuclear energy, chants "Death to Israel," and claims to be the most powerful force in the Middle East and Muslim world.

History perhaps is best described through life stories we each can hold dearly. *The Golden Cage* is one such story about three brothers the author knew through their sister, Pari, a childhood friend. Each brother subscribes to a different political ideology that tears Iran and their lives apart. As Pari observes, her brothers live deluded lives in golden cages of ideology. These words mark the beginning of this story, illuminating the multifaceted, oppressive Iran of today and years past.

**Reviews of *The Golden Cage: Three Brothers, Three Choices, One Destiny*:**

"Bold and brave" – *Wall Street Journal*

"Powerful" – PBS Frontline

"Extraordinary" – *The Independent*, U.K.

"Riveting" – *The Times*, U.K.

"A Masterpiece" – *Ceasefire Magazine*

"Amazing. Do not miss this book" – President Jessica Tuchman Mathews of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

"Gripping story... a sad lesson in how revolutions eat their own" – Isobel Coleman, Director, Council on Foreign Relations

**Sponsors:**

The Hamdani World Harmony Lecture Series has been established in loving memory of Dr. Sajjad and Mrs. Zakira Hamdani.

Presented by the Walter H. Capps Center for the Study of Ethics, Religion, and Public Life at UCSB. This event is cosponsored by UCSB Center for Middle East Studies, Department of Feminist Studies, Department of Political Science, Global and International Studies Program, MultiCultural Center, and Orfalea Center for Global & International Studies.

**For more information, call  
UCSB Walter H. Capps Center for the  
Study of Ethics, Religion, and Public Life  
at (805) 893-2317**

**Editor: For color images,  
please call Leonard Wallock at (805) 893-2317.**