

GIC Member Luncheon

Friday, May 13, 2005

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Middle East Roundtable Discussion: **U.S. involvement in Afghanistan and other Islamic States** *With Shukria Barakzai*

When: Friday, May 13, 2005, space limited
Where: Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia
Registration: RSVP to: 215-898-9453, Fax: 215-898-0893
E-mail: global@pobox.upenn.edu
Or online at www.interdependence.org

The war in Iraq, high oil prices and China's growing economic power have diverted public attention away from ongoing American involvement in Afghanistan. American lives and large financial resources are committed to assisting the Afghan democratization process.

In this roundtable discussion GIC's goal is to provide an off the record opportunity with individuals like **Ms. Shukria Barakzai** to share honest and meaningful dialogue. The conversation is meant to identify the outstanding issues that still need to be dealt with (business, humanitarian and political) and hear how American policies have helped or become a hindrance in the development and democratization of Afghanistan and other Islamic Sovereign states.



Shukria Barakzai

is a warrior, hero and political leader in the dramatic transition of democracy, education and human rights in Afghanistan. Forced to abandon her studies in geophysics at the University of Kabul, during the Taliban regime, Ms. Barakzai vowed to defy the imposed rigid restrictions on women and, from the confinement of her home, headed

several underground schools. Today Afghan women are re-entering public life, and often leading the charge for greater civil liberties, equality and press freedom, thanks in part to the efforts of Mrs. Barakzai.

Ms. Barakzai's was nominated by President Hamid Karzai to be a member of Afghanistan's Constitutional Reviewing Commission. In that role she reviewed drafts of each article of Afghanistan's Constitution. She has been a successful and courageous advocate for those who have been denied a public voice.

Ms. Barakzai is at the center of political debates in the Afghan and international media and is instrumental in preparing Afghanistan for its future. She is founder and Editor of *Women's Mirror*, a newspaper for Afghan women. Named Worldpress.org's 2004 International Editor of the Year for among other things, advancing freedom and responsibility of the press and fostering excellence in journalism. *Join GIC in welcoming her to Philadelphia for an intimate discussion on global interdependence.*

Global Interdependence Center

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